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See story on page 28



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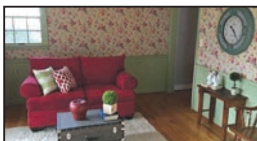
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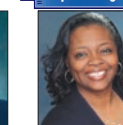
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Wethersfield LIFE

November 2016

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QUOTE OF NOTE:

"We want to create a great community with the children and their parents."— *Ann Sarpu*

See story page 18

ON THE COVER

Julie Daly Meehan runs HYPE
(Hartford Young Professionals
& Entrepreneurs).

Photo by Lisa Brisson
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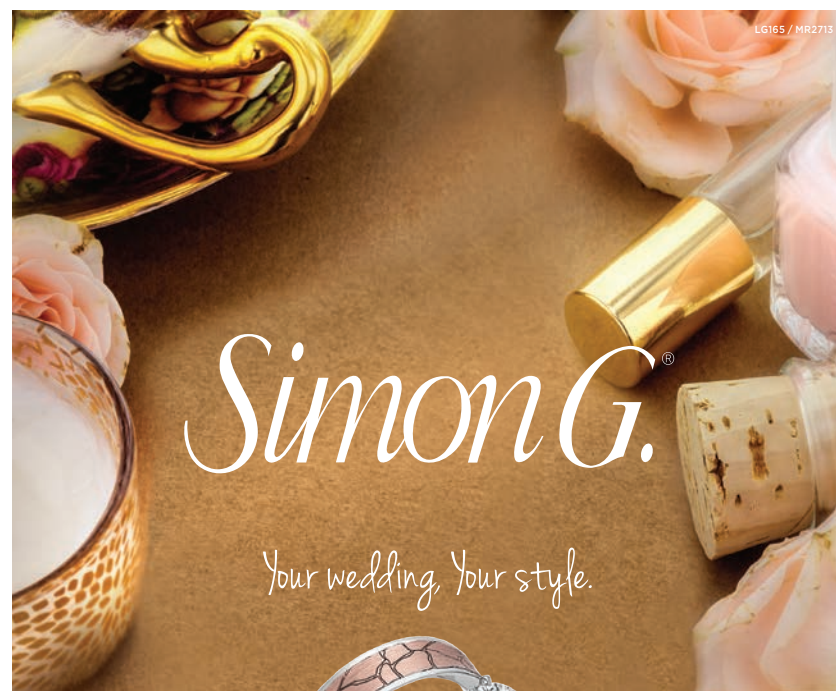
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His art, his work

Philip Lohman will exhibit his graphic art at the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center

by Mark Jahne
Editor

This art is also his work. That's why Philip Lohman is calling his upcoming exhibition simply "Phil Lohman: Artwork."

The Main Street resident, now 77 years old and retired, was the art director and senior graphic designer at the Hartford Courant for many years. His start came earlier than that and this exhibit will show how he began his career and where it ended up.

Not that it's over. He still does design work for the Wethersfield Historical Society, town government, Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum, Temple Beth Torah and others.

Maps are some of his most enjoyable pieces to create but he has also drawn numerous caricatures and other graphics. One of his most well-known local works is a map he created for the Wethersfield Library when it was seeking national recognition for its involvement with the book, "The Witch of Blackbird Pond."

The idea for this art show was first proposed by his friend Harold Nevins, a fellow congregant at Beth Torah.

Lohman was hesitant at first, but decided in the end that it might be fun. People will be able to enjoy his work and it will afford him the opportunity to reflect on all that he has done.

"I have a lot of stuff and copies of everything I ever did. My daughter Melissa has urged me to do this and [wife] Geralddeen agreed that this would be a good thing," he said.

He plans to be his own curator and arrange the show to serve as a narrative of his career. Besides, there is no shortage of art in his home and barn, where he has lived for more than 40 years.

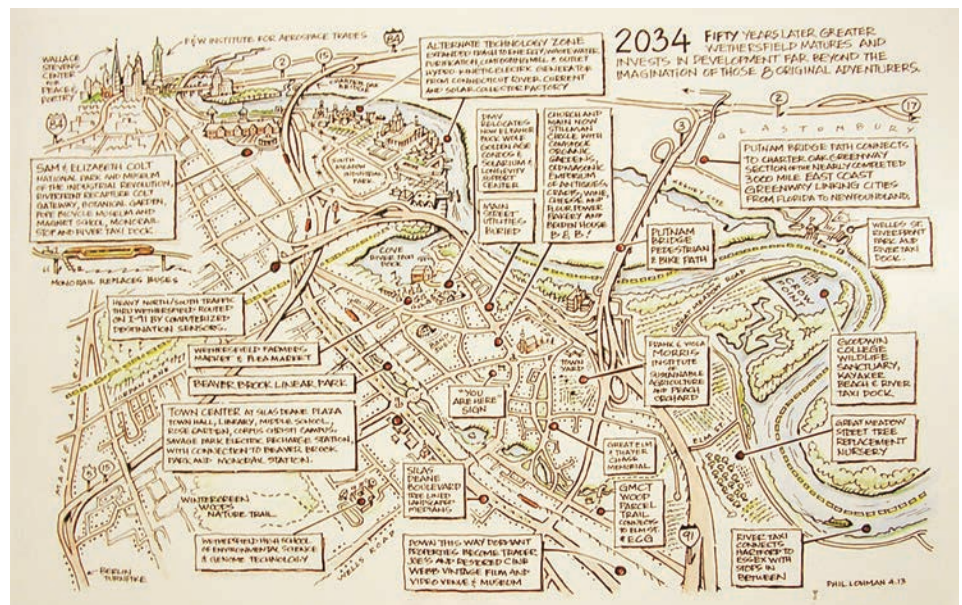
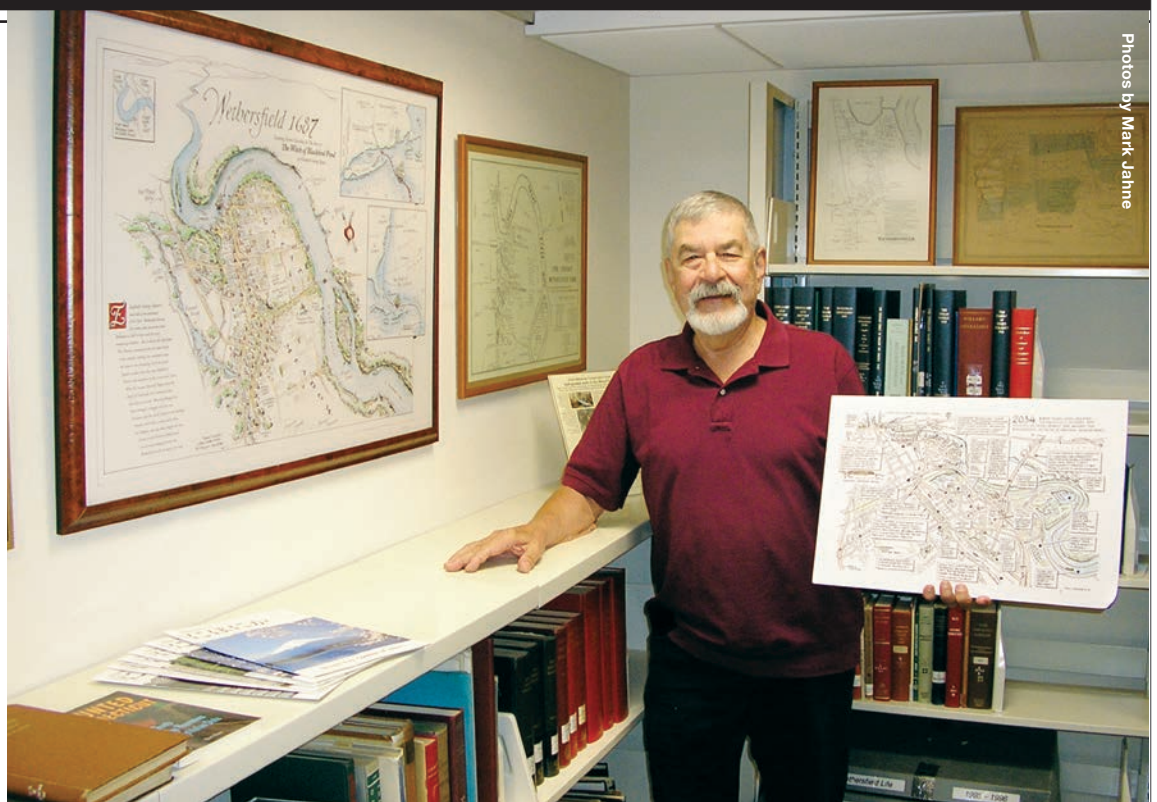
The historical society was thrilled at the thought of hosting such an exhibition.

“Our mission is to preserve and promote Wethersfield history and culture. Phil is an integral part of Wethersfield.”

-Amy Northrop Wittorff

“They don’t have anything scheduled in there during the winter and they’re pleased to have something happening there,” Lohman said. “I’m excited about it.”

“We’re so excited to have this exhibit,” historical society Executive Director Amy Northrop Wittorff confirmed. “Phil has been extraordinarily generous with us.”



This is a close-up of Lohman's whimsical map of the future, predicting or hoping for what may come to pass by 2034.

She added that his exhibit fits in nicely with the society's desire to celebrate all local history, not just the colonial period.

“Our mission is to preserve and promote Wethersfield history and culture. Phil is an integral part of Wethersfield. We think [Keeney] is the perfect place for it,” Wittorff said. **WL**

*“Phil Lohman: Artwork”
opens Nov. 3 with a reception from
5-7 p.m. and will run until March
26 in the Watson Gallery of the
Keeney Memorial Cultural Center,
200 Main St.*

Campaign

It's round two between Paul Doyle and Earle Roberts

2016

by Mark Jahne
Editor

Much of the attention this campaign season has been focused upon the presidential election, but voters will also be asked to make their selections for the U.S. Senate and Congress. Also on the ballot are seats in the state legislature.

The state's 9th Senate District includes Cromwell, Newington, Rocky Hill and part of Wethersfield and Middletown. The contestants are the same as they were in the 2014 election, incumbent Democrat Paul

Doyle of Wethersfield and Republican challenger Earle Roberts of Middletown.

Wethersfield LIFE asked both of the candidates to fill out a short questionnaire with a maximum word limit of 500 words. Here are their responses.

Paul Doyle Democrat

Q. How do you provide necessary state services while also trying to control expenses?

A. Unfortunately, it is clear that the

state budget crisis will continue into the future. We need to prioritize state expenditures by focusing on providing support for our needy citizens and cutting non-essential spending in other areas of the budget.

Although this will not be easy, we need to make these difficult decisions to improve the future for Connecticut. Many of you will not like these difficult spending cuts, but Connecticut's budget picture remains bleak because of persistent reduced revenue.

Q. What are the most important issues facing the state, and what would you do about them?

A. State Budget Crisis: We need to get the state's fiscal house in order and prioritize state spending as detailed above.

Preserve and Create New Jobs: We need to pass legislation that seeks to improve Connecticut's economic climate, with the goal of attracting new businesses and expanding our existing businesses –

job creation. With a focus on small businesses, we will need to target our state economic development dollars to industries that are committed to staying in Connecticut and producing new jobs.

Minimize Property Tax Increases: As a state legislator, I have always fought to maximize state aid to municipalities to minimize property tax increases and I will continue to do so if I am re-elected.

Q. What changes in policy do you think are needed to improve the quality of state government?

A. We need to provide more public input in the entire state budget creation process. Early in the legislative session, the

Paul Doyle



Courtesy photo

VOTE DOYLE ON NOVEMBER 8TH



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PAUL DOYLE**
Democrat for 9th
District State Senate



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Paid for by Doyle For State Senate, David Seifel, Treasurer

Approved by Paul Doyle

Appropriations Committee has lengthy public hearings on the budget.

However, many decisions are made late in the session behind closed doors that do not give the public the opportunity to consider and comment on. We need to provide more public input in the later stages of the budget creation process.

Q. Is there any other information you would like to share with voters about your personal or professional qualifications, background, community involvement?

A. I have been a public servant as a Wethersfield Town Councilor, a state representative and now as a state senator. It has been my privilege and pleasure to participate in government service and I think my experience has helped me effectively serve as the state senator from the 9th District.

I ask the citizens in Cromwell, Middletown, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield to support me on Nov. 8. I promise you that I will work hard, be accessible, and use common sense in my decisions.

Earle Roberts

Republican

Q. How do you provide necessary state services while also trying to control expenses?

A. The budget should be reexamined and significant cuts should be made in areas where money is being wasted. Ideally, I feel there should be an 8 percent cut in the state budget by reducing working hours for state employees and consolidation of resources where possible.

Resources should provide the people of Connecticut the services they need by spending money more wisely where it counts most and holding those responsible for the utilization of necessary resources accountable for money spent that cannot be adequately justified as being necessary to the operations of the state and its residents.

Q. What are the most important issues facing the state, and what would you do about them?

A. Some of the most important issues facing the state right now are keeping businesses in Connecticut and creating more employment opportunities in all

areas. I would support making the state more business friendly by lowering corporate taxes and decreasing government oversight where it is not absolutely essential.

However, I do not support corporate welfare. Drawing more businesses, college graduates.

Q. What changes in policy do you think are needed to improve the quality of state government?

A. Having a serious discussion with all state unions to reach an agreement that will cut down on wasteful spending/change union laws to better benefit the people of Connecticut and make government more efficient without taking away the protections employees need.

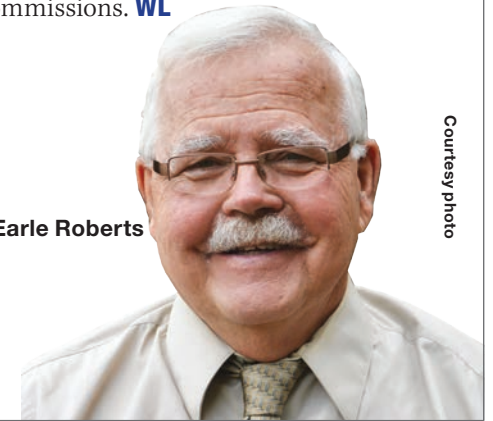
Q. Is there any other information you would like to share with voters about your personal or professional qualifications, background, community involvement?

A. I am a self-employed tool and die maker and a graduate of Middletown High School and the University of Hartford. I served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam era from 1964-1967 and was honorably discharged.

As a lifelong resident of Connecticut, I care a great deal about the future of Connecticut and am currently concerned about many issues that have an impact on each resident. One of my biggest concerns is the current deficit of \$1.3 billion and how we can work to change the system that is perpetuating it.

We need to take a close look at where and how funds are being allocated, focus on consolidating public services, departments and resources, and eliminate wasteful spending and practices, where possible.

Civic involvement has always been a priority for me. In Middletown, I previously served on the Common Council and was chairman of the South Fire District, as well as serving on various town committees and commissions. **WL**



Earle Roberts

Courtesy photo

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Campaign

2016

A familiar face-off returns in the 1st state Senate District

by Mark Jahne
Editor

The story in the state's 1st Senate District is the same as it has been for the past several years.

Democrat John Fonfara is the incumbent and is seeking another term. Republican Barbara Ruhe is challenging him, as she has done multiple times in the past.

The district covers the majority of Wethersfield, although some neighborhoods are located in the 9th Senate District. Wethersfield LIFE asked each of the candidates

to fill out a short questionnaire with a maximum word limit of 500 words. Here are their responses.

John Fonfara
Democrat

Q. How would you provide necessary state services while also trying to control expenses?

A. The definition of "necessary" is very subjective. Even the most fiscally conservative among us believe that their program should not be cut.

As your state senator, my job is

to listen to those I represent and, especially in these very difficult times, to fight for those least able to care for themselves; to protect the foundations of opportunity – especially funding for local schools, our vocational-technical school system, and higher education; and to ensure that our tax policy is fair, incentivizes growth, and encourages businesses and residents to remain in or locate to Connecticut.

Q. What are the most important issues facing the state, and what would you do about them?

A. Economic Growth. Through the early and mid-2000s, Connecticut's economy outperformed many states. In particular, we benefitted from the very strong growth of a handful of sectors, e.g. insurance, pharmaceuticals, hedge fund and defense industries.

Coincident with the great recession, each of these high-performing areas experienced major restructuring. This resulted in Connecticut

losing not only many high-wage jobs, but the significant tax revenue that those jobs generated and has been a major factor in the slow growth we are experiencing since the recession.

The prosperity we experienced during those years masked not only our over-reliance on a few industries, but also the lack of diversity within our economy.

But now with significant investments in STEM education at UConn, in bioscience, in Jackson Labs and in advanced manufacturing,



John Fonfara

Courtesy photo

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Mike Hurley

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Like you, Mike Hurley understands that policies endorsed by Gov. Malloy and our out-of-touch legislature just aren't working. Bad budgets built on tax hikes, coupled with burdensome regulations, have squeezed business owners who require government stability to grow and create good-paying jobs.

A Path Forward.

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- Prepare tomorrow's workforce today by preserving state funding to our schools.
- End Connecticut's perpetual fiscal crisis by controlling costs.
- Improve our state's ailing transportation network without tolls or a mileage tax.

Mike Hurley
For State Representative

[facebook.com/hurleyforwethersfield](https://www.facebook.com/hurleyforwethersfield)

Paid for by Hurley for Wethersfield, Charles T. Carey, Treasurer. Approved by Mike Hurley.



we are building the foundation to compete in the new economy. What will separate Connecticut from other parts of the country and the world is our educational institutions, our highly trained workforce, our ability to innovate and create exciting companies and jobs that will keep more of our children and grandchildren here in the state.

It is why I worked to pass legislation this year to invest in and support innovation and entrepreneurship throughout Connecticut and, if re-elected, why I will continue the important work of rebuilding our state's economy.

Q. What changes in policy do you think are needed to improve the quality of state government?

A. Technology has, and will continue, to change our lives in dramatic ways. State government must not be a bystander in this revolution. One example is the massive investment we are making in our transportation system.

Fully realized, it will be the state's largest single investment. At the same time, major advances in driver-less vehicles will transform the transportation world as we know it. We must make sure the decisions we make now are not obsolete in five or 10 years.

Q. Is there any other information you would like to share with voters about your personal or professional qualifications, background, community involvement?

A. The support of the people of Wethersfield and Hartford has enabled me to assume the responsibility of chairing one of the most important committees in the Connecticut legislature, the Finance Committee. It is a position that puts me at the table when critical decisions are being made.

In the last few years alone, we have established a new source of revenue for municipalities other than the property tax. We passed

legislation to help Connecticut become a leader in innovation and entrepreneurship. We have also shepherded legislation that will keep Pratt & Whitney and Sikorsky Aircraft and the hundreds of suppliers working in Connecticut for years to come.

Barbara Ruhe

Republican

Q. How would you provide necessary state services while also trying to control expenses?

A. I would propose that the state budget be scrutinized line by line and program by program, starting on the very first day of the legislative session. The review should look for efficiency, success or failure, duplication of services and waste.

I would have the structure of agencies evaluated to determine if they are organized in a way to minimize cost, but maximize services and efficiency. I would focus on maintaining core services, i.e., services that are the exclusive responsibility of government and cease governmental functions that should or could be the purview of

Barbara Ruhe

the private sector.

I would seek to build public and private partnerships in areas that could or would provide services that neither alone could provide or that would be a creative way to maximize resources. I would see to it that there were meaningful efforts to obtaining federal funding and private grants for programs.

I would seek to reduce the size of the bureaucracy, but maintain the positions of the folks who actually do the work. A priority would be on maintaining the services for the young, the very old and the disabled. I would take a long, hard look at the bonding commission and what it funds.



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A MESSAGE FROM



STATE SENATOR JOHN FONFARA

As a State Senator representing Wethersfield, I take seriously my responsibility to advocate for a town that is Connecticut's oldest, a town that provided shelter and sustenance to a general who would become our nation's first president, a town that year after year educates its youth to become good and productive citizens of our world, and a town that generations of families have called home. But I also take seriously my responsibility to ensure that Wethersfield's future is as successful as its past. My work may not make headlines but I don't work for headlines, I work for you.

VOTE DEMOCRAT TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8th

APPROVED BY JOHN FONFARA. PAID FOR BY FONFARA 2016. JESSICA INACIO, TREASURER.

Q. What are the most important issues facing the state, and what would you do about them?

A. Of the issues facing the state I would work to:

Focus on job creation/loss prevention by seeking to provide reasonable and useful incentives for small businesses, promote vocational education and apprenticeships, reduce archaic/unreasonable regulations, the goal being that we become a business friendly state.

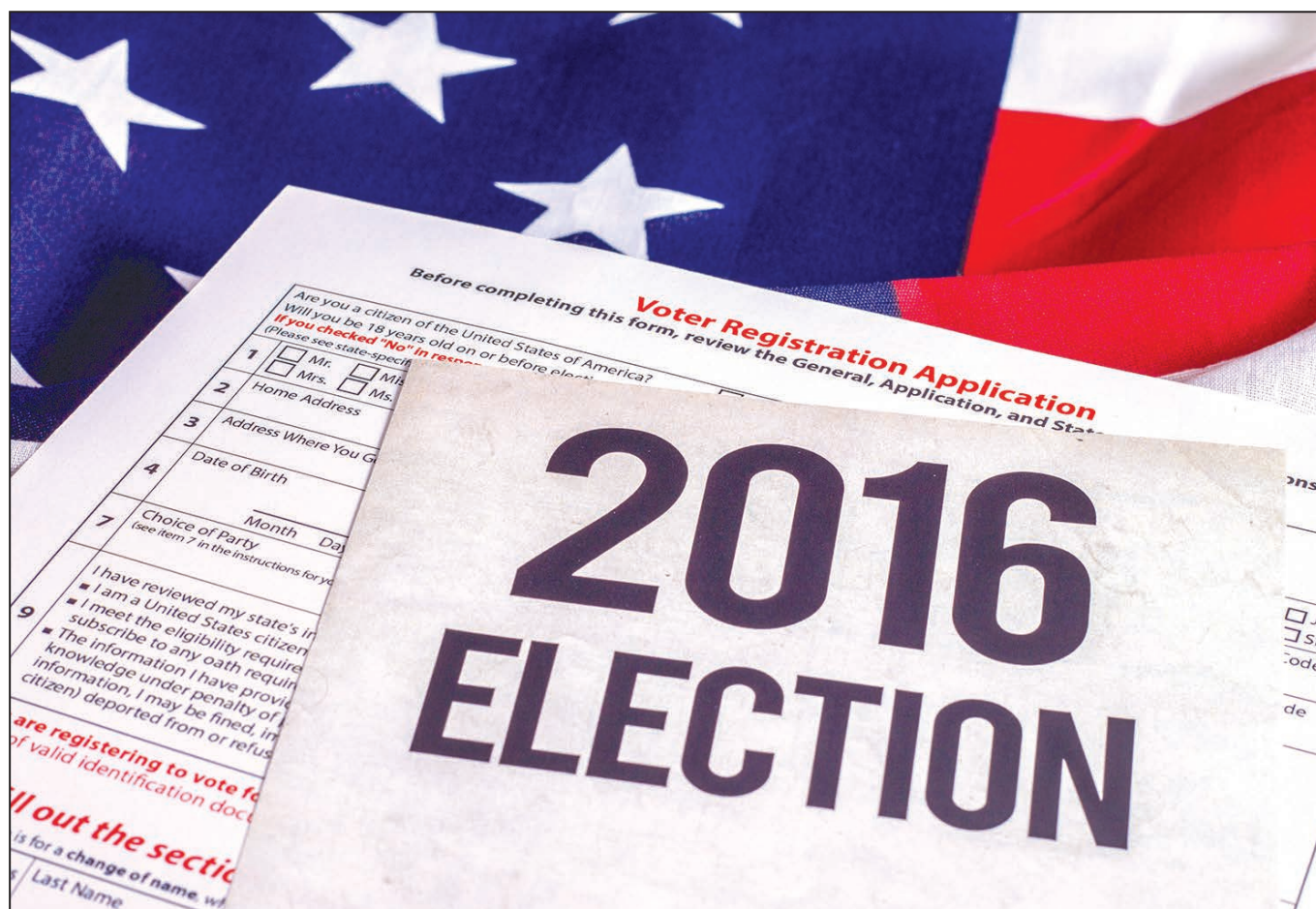
Figure out how to fund our educational systems by reworking funding mechanism and by reducing costs by removing unfunded mandates, review and rework the educational bureaucracy, redesign the educational system in the urban centers so that they become a vehicle to end poverty.

Reduce/eradicate homelessness, which could be funded by the massive savings to the safety net. I would promote forthwith implementing programs that have been successful in other states such as "Housing First."

Close down DCF and rebuild a functioning child welfare system.

Q. What changes in policy do you think are needed to improve the quality of state government?

A. Every program, every agency should have the mantra "does this program provide positive results?"



How can we improve our customer services? Does this program – these regulations – help or hurt children? Do our hours of operation meet the public's needs? Is this program or these regulations still useful? Have we talked to our consumers/our line staff to get their suggestions on how to do things better? Should we refocus the purpose of this organization?"

Q. Is there any other information you would like to share with voters about your personal or professional qualifications, background, community involvement?

A. A longtime resident of Wethersfield with ties to Hartford, I have practiced law for 40 years, primarily in the Family and Juvenile Courts. I am passionate about children's issues, having advocated

for children and families in varied arenas.

I have served on numerous public and private boards and commissions on the local, state and national level including organizations that address poverty and racism. As a parent and grandparent, I have a deep and abiding interest in our educational system at every level. I am practical and plain spoken. **WL**

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Campaign

It's a three-way race in the 28th Assembly District

2016

by Mark Jahne
Editor

The most hotly contested race in town this year is a seat in the state House of Representatives. Candidates for the 28th Assembly District are incumbent Democrat Russ Morin, Republican Michael Hurley and Lee Johnson, a petitioning candidate.

Wethersfield LIFE asked each of the candidates to fill out a short questionnaire with a maximum word limit of 500 words. Here are their responses.

Russ Morin Democrat

Q. How do you provide necessary state services while also trying to control expenses?

A. I propose that we continue the efforts we enacted to reduce the duplication of services in state agencies. Our efforts to consolidate the back of the house operations such as human resources, payroll, purchasing and the like have been very effective.

We must also evaluate the managerial staffing levels. These

are solutions that will allow the frontline workers to serve our residents as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Q. What are the most important issues facing the state, and what would you do about them?

A. The most important issues facing the state are the creation of good-paying jobs, as well as ensuring that we have skilled workers to fill them. Our quality workforce is one of the chief reasons that Electric Boat is committed to bringing in thousands of good-paying jobs to our state.

To continue our progress, we have invested in our universities and technical schools, ensuring that our residents receive the training needed to fill these jobs.

There has been and will continue to be a commitment from myself and the Democratic leadership

to address job creation. We have negotiated sound deals with Jackson Laboratories, who have been partnering with our universities to perform high-level research in the bioscience fields.

We secured deals with Pratt & Whitney and Sikorsky Aircraft that will ensure that both companies will remain headquartered in our state for years to come, while hiring thousands of additional skilled workers.



Russ Morin

Courtesy photo

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Q. What changes in policy do you think are needed to improve the quality of state government?

A. We are moving in the right direction, as we have recently enacted legislation that ensures that any new laws be analyzed as to how they would impact the business community. Some might say that government regulations are a burden to business, but many of these regulations are necessary.

We can't ignore the importance of clean air and water, or the oversight of health and safety laws, to name a few. We must be responsive to business in an efficient manner. However, it is incumbent upon us to ensure that our citizens' rights are protected.

Q. Is there any other information you would like to share with voters about your personal or professional qualifications, background, community involvement?

A. I appreciate this opportunity to share my views and experience with the residents of Wethersfield. I am a

lifelong resident, my wife Grace and I have three children and one grandchild that we are extremely proud of.

I have served the town for many years on a volunteer basis, whether it was coaching youth sports, serving on the Board of Education and Town Council, my commitment to the people of Wethersfield has never diminished.

I am proud of my voting record as your state representative. I have consistently delivered on my promises, whether it was for the \$10 million that allowed the Wethersfield High School project to get completed, funds to make Marsh and Main streets safer, fighting to keep sewage overflows from getting into the Wethersfield Cove, or helping to revitalize our parks, I have always worked on the people's behalf.

I respectfully ask that when you cast your vote on Nov. 8 that you elect me to keep working for you.

Michael Hurley
Republican

Q. How would you provide necessary state services while also trying to control expenses?

A. Reduce borrowing by reprioritizing bond projects and by putting a cap on the amount of state bond issues. Cut Medicaid costs by eradicating abuse by providers and patients.

Reduce discretionary spending and reprioritize spending on non-entitlement programs and not balance the budget on the backs of the state's most vulnerable citizens, elderly and the disabled. The legislature has been controlled by one party for over 40 years and the tax-and-spend mentality needs to change.

Consolidate government agencies to eliminate duplication and waste. The more government does the less it does well.

Q. What are the most important issues facing the state, and what

would you do about them?

A. Businesses moving out of our state is a big issue. Having the state support our businesses and giving them tax relief in order to grow and prosper. High taxes is another issue that is driving people out of our state. The tax-and-spend mentality of the current administration has put us in a fiscal crisis.

Give tax relief to state residents and businesses to stimulate the economy. As businesses start to thrive more, business will start moving to our state instead of moving to other states. A strong economy is based on having a



Michael Hurley

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strong business community and we need to do everything we can to help them.

Q. What changes in policy do you think are needed to improve the quality of state government?

A. Stop over-regulation. Government shouldn't stifle businesses trying to put people back to work.

More transparency is needed in the budget process. For the last several years, the budget has been put together at the eleventh hour in back-room deals with large unknowns which have led to deficits that are closed by raising taxes.

The ethics rules should be strengthened to stop conflicts of interest in state government. State elected officials should not be allowed to work for the state unions. State union employees make up one of the largest costs for the state. Someone that works for one of those unions

has a conflict when putting a budget together and voting on union contracts.

Q. Is there any other information you would like to share with voters about your personal or professional qualifications, background, and community involvement?

A. I am a lifelong resident of Wethersfield and four-term Wethersfield town councilman. Helped turn our town finances around by stopping the consistent annual 8 percent tax increases by using common sense and thoughtful budgeting.

Former coach for multiple youth sports programs. I have worked in finance most of my life and am a CPA, currently working at Travelers Insurance Company. Married to Carol Hurley and proud to have raised four children in our town.

Lee Johnson

Petitioning

Q. How do you provide necessary state services while also trying to control expenses?

A. Wethersfield needs independent leadership at the Capitol. In 2015, Russ Morin voted for the second largest tax increase in Connecticut history. This reached the tipping point in taxes that sent residents and businesses out of state. This crystallized Connecticut's failure to recover jobs and lost prosperity from the recession.

Governor Malloy asked the legislature for an end to state spending on "autopilot." Raising taxes to cover increased spending will not work. The legislature held the budget this year because it is an election year.

Faced with budget deficits of over \$1 billion next year, you must assume they will resume tax-and-spend habits and poor priorities

after the election.

Wethersfield needs a representative that will put town residents first. Representative Morin advertises that he voted no on Malloy's budget, but fails to tell you why. He voted against the last budget not for reasons of fiscal responsibility, but because he had concerns over cuts.

Representing Wethersfield requires undivided loyalty to the town. As a union representative, Russ Morin's divided loyalties



Courtesy photo

Lee Johnson

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- Delivered \$10 million for Wethersfield High School
- Secured funding for Cottone Field and the Church & Main Street intersection
- Passed legislation to fight the opioid epidemic
- Eliminated state income tax on military pensions & strengthened senior property tax credits



prevent him from doing his job as state representative of Wethersfield.

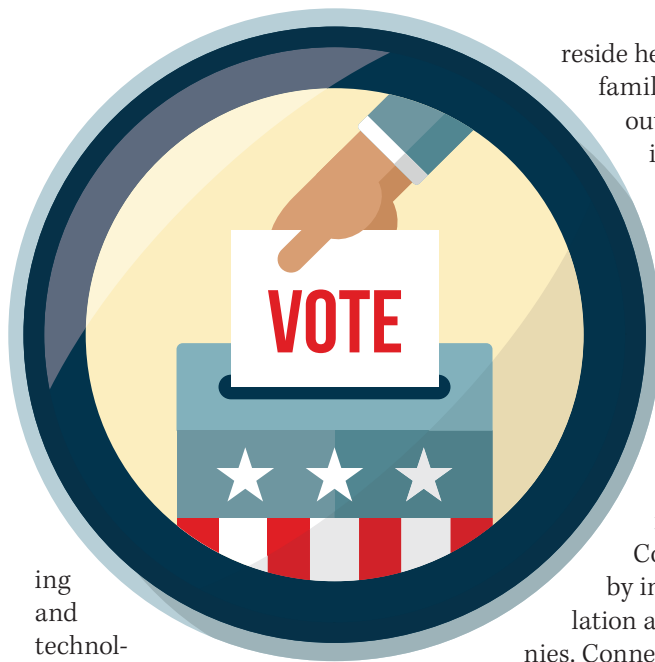
Services provided must be prioritized. Non-essential services must be limited. Wasteful spending, such as the busway, and certain state grants that do little to help our economy, should be eliminated.

Oversight of the grant process should be established through a bipartisan independent commission with objective standards.

Q. What are the most important issues facing the state, and what would you do about them?

A. Connecticut ranks last in New England in recovery from the recession. Job growth, taxes, and our economy are the most important issues facing the state. Increasing taxes on business and residents continues a downward spiral of loss of wealth and income.

Our priority should be to attract businesses, increase job opportunity and keep manufactur-



ing and technology jobs in the state. When you replace lost manufacturing jobs with lower-paying employment, tax revenues continue to fall. Connecticut must take steps to reverse a loss of population and businesses.

Young people do not want to

reside here and raise their families and are moving out of state. I would increase programs like SB1 – an act designed to create and foster innovation in Connecticut by providing entrepreneurial grants. It creates the Connecticut 500 project that seeks to improve Connecticut's economy by increasing jobs, population and start-up companies. Connecticut needs more of these programs to move our state in the right direction.

Q. What changes in policy do you think are needed to improve the quality of state government?

A. First, Connecticut should enact comprehensive state spending cap

legislation and pass real ethics legislation. Second, Connecticut residents deserve a DMV in Wethersfield that efficiently serves the public.

Third, increased regionalism could add another layer of government; this may not save money, but could lead to new taxes and loss of local control.

Q. Is there any other information you would like to share with voters about your personal or professional qualifications, background, community involvement?

A. Lee Johnson has practiced law for 35 years and has an office in Wethersfield. He served on the Board of Education for two terms. He was elected to the Town Council and served as assistant town attorney. Lee is a member of the Connecticut Bar Association and the Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce. **WL**

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Campaign 2016

Brown seeks to oust longtime incumbent Guerrero in 29th Assembly District

by Mark Jahne
Editor

The 29th Assembly District covers all of Rocky Hill as well as portions of Newington and Wethersfield. This

year's race is between longtime Democratic incumbent Antonio "Tony" Guerrero and Republican newcomer Todd Brown. Both men reside in Rocky Hill.

Wethersfield LIFE asked both of the candidates to fill out a short questionnaire with a maximum word limit of 500 words. Here are their responses.

Antonio Guerrero Democrat

Q. How would you provide necessary state services while also trying to control expenses?

A. As legislators, we must consider the budget in its entirety and determine which state services are to be considered "essential." Then we must estimate the revenues the state will receive in the next fiscal year and allocate those revenues to essential state services.

If we find that estimated revenues will be inadequate to fund all the services we consider to be essential, it then becomes our responsibility to make difficult choices among reducing those

"essential" services, increasing taxes, or some combination of the two. This is the most difficult challenge legislators face every year.

Q. What are the most important issues facing the state, and what would you do about them?

A. My priorities are, and always have been, extending the state's role in creating jobs, furthering economic development and focusing on essential support for education, the elderly, the disadvantaged and those with special needs.

In determining these priorities, I continue to listen carefully to the concerns of my constituents and to try to respond to them within the limits of available state resources.

Q. What changes in policy do you think are needed to improve the quality of state government?

A. These are not necessarily changes in policy, but I believe state government must make every effort to increase its use of technol-

ogy to improve the efficiency of its programs and services and the effectiveness of their delivery to all citizens.

As chairman of the Transportation Committee, I'm especially committed to using available state resources to expand the use of public transportation and modernize our rail, bus, seaport, airport and highway infrastructure.

Q. Is there any other information you would like to share with voters about your personal or professional qualifications, background, community involvement?



Antonio Guerrero

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A. In the 16 years I've served as state representative in the 29th District, I've tried to make sure that the interests and concerns of my constituents in these communities are first and foremost in the decisions I'm called on to make. At the same time, I've recognized that my decisions affect the entire state, and therefore I'm obligated to consider how the needs of my district can be measured against the needs of the state.

In the vast majority of legislative issues that come before us, those needs are very similar, and my decisions are pretty easy to make. In those rare instances where those needs are not the same, I've done my best to weigh the pros and cons, then make the decision I believe is right.

In weighing the alternatives, I rely on my experience as a self-employed businessman responsible for getting the job done on time and within budget. I also rely on the lessons I learned from my parents, who came to this country with almost no money, but with a willingness to work hard and become contributing residents of the greatest country on earth.

Those lessons include faith in your own abilities, commitment to productive work, and dedication to doing what's right for the benefit of those closest to us. These are the lessons I pledge to continue carrying out if I'm fortunate enough once

again to earn the trust of my district's voters.

Todd Brown

Republican

Q. How would you provide necessary state services while also trying to control expenses?

A. Four years ago, in different words than Governor Malloy used, I suggested block grants to the commissioners to allocate funding at their discretion. The legislature gets estimates on revenue, budgets to that number.

Give the commissioners the money with the instructions to get the most value with the money they have to work with. Watchdog groups and the press will make sure the money has been well allocated.

Q. What are the most important issues facing the state, and what would you do about them?

A. Two things, high taxes and out-of-control spending. High-income wage earners are leaving the state because of the tax burden. There should be no more tax increases and no more looking for new taxes, especially tolls or a mileage tax on our roads.

For too many years the state budget has been growing at a rate faster than inflation or wage growth. We have to stop the state budget from growing faster than revenues.

We have to stop borrowing money as a way to keep up the spending. The legislature needs to follow its own laws about the budget and spending. If we can make the state look affordable and stable, then business will want to be here without special incentives.

Q. What changes in policy do you think are needed to improve the quality of state government?

A. We need our government to stop spending beyond revenues and to wisely allocate money for the most impact. Certain tax revenues should be spent using common sense for what they fund.

Only 24 percent of the gas tax goes towards road repair and building, and yet we hear that we need tolls or a mileage tax to pay for our roads. Before passing a law for a lockbox for tolls we do not have, how about designating 100 percent of the gas tax revenue for roads?

When the CT Lottery was introduced, its revenue was supposed to go for education, and now the money goes into the general fund. Keep the promise and fund education with lottery money.

No more bloated projects like a \$600 million busway between Hartford and New Britain. Portland, Maine, had 10 miles of rail track and rehabbed it for \$30 million into a commuter rail line.

Meanwhile, Connecticut ripped out the rail and replaced with road at 20 times the cost

Term limits and removal of state legislators from the pension plan. It is called government service and elected officials should not look for this part-time job to be a career. Ten years maximum.

Q. Is there any other information you would like to share with voters about your personal or professional qualifications, background, community involvement?

A. I serve on the Open Space Commission as a way to protect the outdoor resources of Rocky Hill. I live an active outdoor lifestyle. I can be seen in town running, kayaking and riding on an ElliptiGO.

I bring both thought and energy to the things I do. I love to talk, but also I am always ready to listen. I am a moderate and I do not view compromise as a dirty word. Together, we win. **WL**



Todd Brown

Courtesy photo

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Ann Sarpu is the new principal at Corpus Christi School. She is surrounded by students in teacher Kimberly Kownacki's first grade class.

Photo by Mark Jahne

Meet Ann Sarpu

New principal takes the helm at Corpus Christi School

by Mark Jahne
Editor

Corpus Christi School started the new academic year with a new face in the principal's office for the first time in 24 years.

Eileen Sampiere retired in June and the new head of school is Ann Sarpu.

The South Windsor resident has 15 years of prior experience in schools run by the Archdiocese of Hartford. She spent 10 years at St. James in

Manchester as a teacher and then assistant principal, followed by five years at St. Martha in Enfield.

A Roman Catholic and native of Wellesley, Mass., she earned her undergraduate degree from Babson College and her master's from what was then St. Joseph College.

"I'm a motivated person and I like new challenges," she said when asked why she decided to seek out this job.

Enrollment at Corpus Christi is

approximately 350 students, double that of St. Martha. Sarpu is proud that all three schools she has worked at are national blue ribbon schools of excellence, as determined by the U.S. Department of Education.

"I like the fact that we have Catholic schools that are really great in academics," she said. "In addition to the spiritual component, the blue ribbon does help."

It also helps to recruit students

to keep the school going. In addition to a full academic program, students also received instruction in religion, art, music, Spanish and physical education.

Cadet and jazz band programs are offered. Special rooms are set aside for art, band and science lab.

"We have one of the largest band programs in the archdiocese," she said proudly.

Corpus Christi has been in

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operation for 55 years and many of today's students are the children of former students. Sarpu said the school is on solid financial ground and focuses on teaching not only academics, but the Christian values of being respectful and kind to other people.

It has long been the practice at Corpus Christi and other Catholic schools to accept children of any faith as students. It educates children from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.

"Our non-Catholic population is probably 11 or 12 percent. We're drawing from 26 towns," Coleen Antico, director of development, said.

Sarpu spends plenty of time out of her office, walking the halls, visiting classrooms and getting to know the school community. She enjoys adorning her office walls with student-created art.

"I'm excited to continue to learn the children's names," she said. "We want to create a great community with the children and their parents."

The new principal tries to see things through the students' eyes and not just her own.

"She's been very welcoming to our students. She has an open-door policy," Antico said.

She added that parents seem pleased with the new principal and view her as someone looking to make personal connections with students and their families. They also are pleased that she established a Facebook page for the school.

"They like the structures that we have," Antico said.

"We want to create a great community with the children and their parents."

-Ann Sarpu

Sarpu does not plan to make major changes to such a successful school, but she will tweak things here and there to put her own imprint on the place. One of those changes is monthly recitation of the Rosary and a focus upon living the Beatitudes, as written in the Book of Matthew.

Other changes are the addition of several clubs, including an after-school

program, yoga, running, and soccer and basketball skills training.

"Mrs. Sarpu has started a community service initiative," Antico said.

Students in the middle school grades are now expected to perform five hours of community service every trimester. Eighth-graders are paired with kindergarten "buddies" for certain activities.

Sarpu is pleased with the computer technology available to students

with experience. She immediately caught our attention," Discenza said of Sarpu.

That experience was important because Corpus Christi is now the largest elementary school run by the Archdiocese of Hartford and the School Board wants to keep it on a successful trajectory.

"She immediately rose to the top. It was clear she spoke from a deep sense of faith and a strong vision of where the school should be going," Discenza said.

She added that Sarpu had not just a vision, but a plan.

"She had already put our school on social media," she said.

Recruitment and retention of students is a key goal of the School Board. It's also a major focus of Sarpu and that's why she established the Facebook page.

Discenza said she is confident that Corpus Christi's future will be long and successful under Sarpu's leadership. **WL**

Corpus Christi School will hold an open house from 8:30-11 a.m. on Election Day, Nov. 8.



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Discussing the issues

Church hosts town officials at its first Impact 10 forum

by Mark Jahne
Editor

The congregants of the Wethersfield United Methodist Church want to know the major issues that are facing this town and the obstacles that make it difficult to resolve those issues.

That's why they created the Impact 10 discussion series. The first such forum was held the afternoon of Sept. 25 in the church sanctuary. Speakers were Police Chief James Cetran and Kathleen Bagley, director of the town Department of Social and Youth Services.

Mayor Paul Montinieri was also invited, but was unable to attend.

The Rev. Albert Hahn, pastor of the church, said WUMC has been part of the town for 225 years. It started on Main Street in Old Wethersfield in space now occupied by Temple Beth Torah before moving to its current location on Prospect Street at the entrance to Mill Woods Park.

Hahn said the church has a mission to perform outreach and it assists such local operations as the Interval House shelter for victims of domestic violence and South Park Inn homeless shelter.

"Our church is looking to take on a leadership role in the town of

Wethersfield. We want to take the first year to assess the needs," he said.

Bagley spoke first. She said money is always a concern in these times when governments everywhere are trying to do more with less. She predicted that cuts in the state budget will add further stress to town services.

"What impact is that going to have on the town? There will be a trickle-down effect," Bagley said.

She added that 7 percent of all households here are below the federal poverty level and another 19 percent are barely above that number and struggle to meet their basic needs.

"We're blessed by the generosity of the Wethersfield community."

—Kathleen Bagley

There are approximately 10,000 households in town.

"That [level of poverty] surprises a lot of people," Bagley said.

She wants to see those numbers go down and make sure that residents have access to the various resources available to help them. She added that different groups, such as senior citizens and families with young children,



Police Chief James Cetran and Kathleen Bagley, town director of social and youth services, spoke at the Sept. 25 Impact 10 forum at Wethersfield United Methodist Church.

Photo by Mark Jahne

have different needs.

One of the obstacles she faces is identifying those in need so that they can be contacted and made aware of local resources, both public and private. A second is recruiting, training and retaining a sufficient number of volunteers to augment town staff. The greatest obstacle is money.

"Unfortunately, I always have to

grateful for that support but noted that the need to keep the food pantry stocked is just as great in the summer as it is in the winter, perhaps even more, because children are not in school.

She is pleased with the early success of the Wethersfield Hunger Action Team, formed in conjunction with Foodshare. Bagley is also delighted that the Richard M. Keane Foundation is funding after-school programs in the five public elementary schools.

She was asked about trends in town and responded that she sees more senior citizens downsizing and moving out of their homes. These homes are in many cases purchased by younger people with children and that has resulted in a small increase in public school enrollment.

She called these trends signs of a healthy community. When asked, Bagley acknowledged that there are drugs in town, just like nearly every other community in the country. She said her department is planning to reach out to teenagers with an anonymous youth needs assessment.




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Chief Cetran opened his remarks by pointing out that the town has enjoyed a 20-year run of reduced crime. But he fears that is about to end. Lesser sentences, reluctance to prosecute non-violent crimes and other policy changes made at the State Capitol leave him worried about public safety.

"The state has reduced what they're doing, especially with the courts," he said. "The state has also cut back on social services. There is going to be a rise in crime. There's no question in my mind. All of these things, put together, that's my biggest concern."

The past year already showed an increase in the crime rate, according to the chief.

Budget cutbacks in the prison system mean fewer people are being incarcerated. He said that means those who would have been in jail in the past are now walking the streets and may commit additional crimes.

"Because they're not being prosecuted, because they're not going to jail, they feel encouraged to commit crime," he said. "The perspective for the future does not look good in regards to crime."

Cetran is also upset about racial profiling data and reporting that he contends unfairly characterizes his department as a racist police force. He said the data does not take into account the fact that Wethersfield borders Hartford and that many minorities from Hartford, especially Latinos, come to town to shop, dine and more.

Some of them get stopped for motor vehicle violations. That drives up the overall percentage of minorities being pulled over and questioned by police and, when compared to the Latino population that lives within Wethersfield's borders, makes it look as if cops are unfairly targeting that particular group.

The data show that the majority of crimes committed in this town are committed by people who live in the South End of Hartford, he said.

"The racial profiling accusations have really demoralized a lot of officers," Cetran said.

He further said allegedly biased data analysis divides, rather than unites, the police and the general public. On the brighter side, he spoke of the need for the community to openly support law enforcement, and said many people in town do just that.

"We need the citizens of our community to be our eyes and ears,"

Cetran said.

He added that the public mood has changed and more people are being aggressive in their interactions with officers. This has led to law enforcement backing off from motor vehicle stops and other typical activities and Cetran contends that any reduction in activity by officers only results in a less safe public.

He told those in attendance that they are served by an excellent police department and none of his officers are racist. They undergo regular training to identify any biases and make sure those are not in play when they interact with the public.

The department is adding new technology to its cruisers that will read and photograph the license plate numbers of all cars police pass while patrolling the streets. Cetran is not an advocate of body cameras because he said the policy passed by the state legislature is so complicated and restrictive that it is difficult for officers to comply.

That policy, he said, requires turning these cameras off and on depending upon the immediate situation and what is being discussed, a practice that could open up officers to allegations of shutting them down to avoid recording controversial material. He much prefers the cameras mounted in police cars that the town already employs.

Cetran said the department is actively involved in community policing, citing National Night Out, the DARE program for schoolchildren, resource officers in the middle and high schools, and the Citizens Police Academy as examples. He encouraged those present to sign up for the academy to learn what policing is all about.

"We explain to citizens what we do and how we do it," he said.

He added it is important that police and government deal with quality of life issues and not just crimes. He was asked about speeding cars and smiled, saying that during his many years in town he has received speeding complaints emanating from probably every street, including those that are dead ends.

When asked about drugs, he said he believes the problem is still significant, although not as bad as it was in the past. But he is concerned about the easily availability of inexpensive heroin and the fact that it is being cut with a much more powerful narcotic. **WL**



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People notes



The Wethersfield High School Dance Team

The Wethersfield High School Dance Team performed at the 2016 CornFest.

Kate Betts, Thomas Betts, Alessia Caruso, Amanda Civitello, Charlotte Cyr, Harim Hahn, Elizabeth Hammer, Max-William Kanz, David Marottolo, Matthew Marottolo, Luke Mills, Ambika Natarajan, Amrita Natarajan, Melani Norsigian, Taline Norsigian, Joanna Williams and John Wolf were named to the dean's list at Kingswood Oxford School.

Ian Gingrave and Navarre Pratt, recent graduates of Wethersfield High School, were honored by the Northern Connecticut Chapter of the National Football Foundation as scholar athletes for their accomplishments on the field and in the classroom.

Elizabeth Neilan was named to the dean's list at the University of Scranton.

Marisa Gonzalez was named to the dean's list at Providence College.

Alexa Giolito completed the Dublin Global Field Course at Eastern Connecticut State University.

Hannah Sisson was inducted into the Phi Zeta Kappa honor society at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Maura Brennan was named to the dean's list at Western New England University.

Jessica Gray and Taylor Melillo were named to the dean's list at Endicott College.

Alyssa Harris was named to the dean's list at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia.

Samantha Walter completed the Global Field Course to Iceland at Eastern Connecticut State University.

Anneli Johnson was named to the dean's list at the University of New Hampshire.

Lauren Tiberio was named executive director of the cardiovascular service line at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center. She will be responsible for operational and strategic management for the Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute of Connecticut.

William Martin and Brianna Moody were named to the dean's list at Tufts University.

Karen Inkel was declared a winner in the "25 Rising Stars of Innovation Under 40" by LIMRA, the Life Insurance and Market Research Association.

Rachel DiNatalie, a student at Eastern Connecticut State University, traveled to Ghana to focus on health care, public health and the education sectors of developing counties.

Carling Walsh was named to the dean's list at St. Lawrence University.

Tom Vaughan was elected executive vice president of UNICO National.

Kate Betts was named an AP Scholar with Distinction at Kingswood Oxford School.

Brianna Godlewski was named to the dean's list at Union College. WL



Erica Teixeira, left, and Kathy Bagley of town social and youth services are thrilled with the \$16,000 that was donated to the department. The funds came from the inaugural Mayor's Charity Ball and will be used for a new weekend meals program.

Addressing weekend hunger

New program for families receives proceeds from the Mayor's Charity Ball

by Mara Dresner
Staff Writer

During the school year, many families rely on school breakfasts and lunches to ensure that their children are eating enough. That becomes more challenging on the weekends and even more so in the summer months.

The town Department of Social and Youth Services is hoping to make a positive impact for those families with a new weekend youth meal program.

"We know that for families that are financially struggling, it can become a burden on them to provide breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks for two days while their kids are home," Erica Teixeira, assistant director of social and youth services, said.

The department is providing enough food for two days' worth of meals, as well as two snacks for each weekend day. If the program is a success, it will continue year round.

"We kind of piloted it over the summer to get a feel for the need. Our goal is to continue it and sustain throughout the school year," Teixeira said.

It's part of the town's focus on reducing hunger. This past October, Wethersfield residents formed a hunger action committee, or HAT, in

alliance with Foodshare. One of the four major goals of the Wethersfield HAT is to increase free and reduced-price school meal participation.

"We were concerned that kids were not having enough food for weekends, then summer comes and they didn't have enough food and they're not getting free lunches [at school]," Judy Keane, president of the Richard M. Keane Foundation, said.

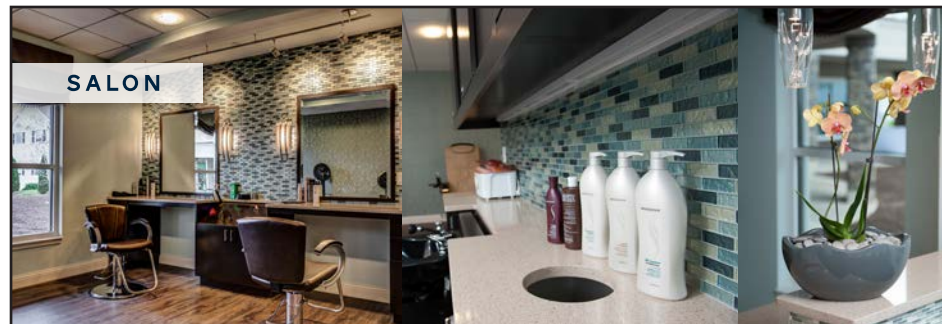
The foundation has been a major supporter of hunger relief programs in town and three members of the foundation, including Keane, serve on the local HAT.

"We've known for a while some kids in town are not getting adequate nutrition. It's not just kids, it's their families are struggling. Since the recession, people may be employed, but they're just not making enough for quality food," she said.

"This is a very fragile community; the working poor is a fragile community. We do a lot of children's programs. Kids can better attend to things if their stomachs are full and they can have good nutrition."

The weekend meals program is open to families with children under the age of 18 who are still in school. Families that are interested in participating are encouraged to contact social and youth services.

Courtesy photo



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“The people of Wethersfield were, and are, so generous. It wildly exceeded our expectations.”

—Ken Lesser

“It would just be filling out some paperwork like we utilize through the food bank. It’s not cumbersome, there’s not a lot of it,” Teixeira said.

She urged anyone who is interested in participating to come in, even if they’re not sure they’re eligible. She said some people appear as though they might make too much money to qualify, but there are extenuating circumstances.

“It could be day care [expenses] or some type of medical condition or their car broke down. Things that can happen every day in anybody’s life, things that would make them come

out negative at the end of that month,” she explained. “If you think you might not qualify because you’re over income and you’re still struggling, come in and have a conversation about it.”

Teixeira said this is just one program available to people in need.

“We’re looking to help with other needs families might be experiencing, not just hunger. It’s a good doorway to open them to other programs,” she said. “It’s very confidential. My hope is no one feels their business is out there or stigmatized by it.”

Teixeira and Christina Morra-Tiu, town social worker, decide each week what items to include in the weekend food program.

“We’ll be looking at our options. We’ll see what donations do we have that have come in, what’s available at Foodshare’s website that we can purchase in bulk, and then purchase other stuff,” Teixeira said.

The goal is to have nutritious, easy-to-prepare foods.

“We really want to make it so the child wouldn’t have issues preparing the food on their own. We don’t want to add more work onto families,” she said.

Some foods will be of value to the entire family.

“Our goal is to put in a box of cereal that can go for more than the child. Parents often go without to feed the child,” Teixeira said.

Other food items might be 100 percent juice boxes, applesauce, macaroni and cheese, pancake mixes, peanut butter and jelly, pretzels and crackers. Growing the program will be easier thanks to a recent financial donation. Proceeds from the first Mayor’s Charity Ball were donated to social services, specifically earmarked for the weekend meals.

“We donated \$16,000 to the Social and Youth Services Department for the purpose of providing weekend meals for eligible students. It is estimated that the money will feed 88 kids,” Ken Lesser, co-chairman of the Mayor’s Ball and HAT member, said.

“We formed a hunger action team last fall when learning about how prevalent the problem of hunger is in Wethersfield and we knew we wanted the proceeds of our first charity ball to go for the fight against hunger. Finally, we wanted the funds to go to a [specif-

ic] need/program and not just give a lump sum donation to the food bank,” he added.

A check presentation ceremony was held June 21 at Town Hall. The Mayor’s Charity Ball partnered with the Keane Foundation for the event.

“When we started we couldn’t solicit some donations, such as corporate donations, unless we were a 501(c)(3). Judy Keane graciously offered for one year to have the donations be made to her organization to benefit the Mayor’s Ball and ultimately, the food bank,” Lesser said. “We’ve just started the process of becoming a 501(c)(3).”

He was pleased with the results.

“We didn’t have a set number per se. I will say it’s probably double what I thought we’d do, this being a first-time event. The committee worked really hard,” he said.

“The people of Wethersfield were, and are, so generous. It wildly exceeded our expectations. I’m excited by the generosity of people in Wethersfield. It’s why the event was so successful and we’re able to help so many kids.”

He invites residents to join the HAT.

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ing problem and we have a team that's formed to help combat the issue of hunger. We would love for anyone to get involved," he said.

Keane added that it makes sense for her organization to work with social services.

"We collaborate with a lot of different organizations with the community. Early on, we decided that was the best way for us to serve, in collaboration with other groups, proven to be beneficial for everybody," she said.

"There's no sense in reinventing the wheel. When we work together, we really can accomplish a lot more."

The foundation recently donated a \$500 gift card for P.C. Richard & Son to the department.

"We were able to update our refrigeration system with a new one and it's been working out great. It's more efficient and has more space," Teixeira said.

"That's essential for healthier food. If you don't have the storage capacity, you can't have fresh foods and vegetables," Keane added.

The foundation received \$1,000 as well as the gift card from WFSB.



Proceeds from the Mayor's Charity Ball will benefit a new weekend food program. Erica Teixeira, assistant director of social and youth services, left, and Kathy Bagley, director of social and youth services, accept a symbolic check from Ken Lesser and Mayor Paul Montinieri, co-chairmen of the Mayor's Charity Ball Committee.

Keane said donating the card fits in with what the foundation does.

"It's certainly in line with our mission and current thinking about the needs in the community," she said, noting she was surprised by "the number of people that utilize the services."

The statistics were mind-boggling. We think of [Wethersfield] as an affluent community. Hearing the statistics about our community was really sobering." **WL**

For more information about the weekend meals program call

860-721-2977 or visit wethersfieldct.com. Donations of nutritious food are always welcome and may be dropped off at the social services offices at town hall, William Raveis Real Estate at 990 Silas Deane Highway and the First Church of Christ in Wethersfield, 250 Main St.

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News roundup

Get ready to rake

Leaves raked to curbside will be collected by town crews beginning Oct. 31 and continuing through Dec. 2. Residents should have their leaves raked to the curb by the first day of collection in their area. Leaves should be placed on the snow shelf behind the curb, not in the street.

Piles must be free of any foreign matter, such as large tree branches and stones. The town will not make individual spot pickups of leaves. Residents who do not have their leaves raked to the curb by the collection may compost them or take them to the transfer station at 100 Marsh St.

Hours of operation for the transfer station are Monday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. The collection schedule is subject to

change, depending upon the weather. The most up-to-date collection times can be found at wethersfieldct.com.

Walking to Webb

For the fourth consecutive year, Webb School celebrated National Walk to School Day Oct. 5 as one community. Members of the school met at the top of Windmill Hill and together walked as a group.

Joining students were Police Lt. Andy Power, Officer Tony Gonzalez, Board of Education Chairman Bobbie Granato, board member Elaine Steinmiller-Paradise and more than 100 Webb parents. Students learned about the importance of health and wellness and why walking is an important element of quality exercise.



Studying outside

Tainted mosquitoes found

The Central Connecticut Health District reports that some mosquitoes recently trapped on Goff Road tested positive for West Nile Virus. That makes 18 towns in Connecticut where infected insects were discovered.

Only one person, a Milford resident over the age of 70, has tested positive for the illness. Anyone with concerns about West Nile Virus may call the health district at 860-721-2822 or see ccthd.org.

Emmett gets extended contract

The Board of Education unanimously approved a contract extension for Superintendent of Schools Michael Emmett, extending his contract to the 2018-2019 academic year. The vote came after an executive session to discuss how he met the goals assigned to him.

Those goals focused on three main areas: student achievement, communication and finances. The board determined that, spearheaded by Emmett, the Wethersfield Public Schools made significant improvements in the 2015-2016 academic year.

The district had some of the highest increases in Connecticut on the state's mandated Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) tests. He is also overseeing the completion of the district's state-of-the-art high school renovation.

Cleaning up the outdoors

Volunteers with the Great Meadows



Walking to Webb

Conservation Trust participated in the recent Source to the Sea cleanup along the Connecticut River. They removed a variety of litter, including four discarded tires, from the north side of Wethersfield Cove along I-91.

Shown are, from left, Pete Spangenberg, Town Council member Michael Hurley, Tim Lewis, Phil Willsey, Linda Nielson, Sara Trueax of the Wethersfield High School Environmental Club and Gerry Hayes.

Join Dollars for Scholars

Wethersfield Dollars for Scholars is looking for new members to continue the work that was started in 1974 by Dr. Philip Sehl and Felix Babel to provide one-time scholarships to graduating seniors who live in town and plan to pursue any form of post-secondary education.

This nonprofit corporation is managed by volunteers and funded entirely by donations from residents and businesses. Scholarships are based primarily on financial need, academic accomplishment and community service.

Anyone interested in learning more may call Audrey Saharek at 860-508-6999.

Impact 10, part two

Wethersfield United Methodist Church will present the second in a



Cleaning up the outdoors

Courtesy photo

series of community forums called Impact 10 at noon Oct. 30 at the church, 150 Prospect St. Scheduled guest speakers are Mayor Paul Montinieri, Superintendent of Schools Michael Emmett and Town

Manager Jeff Bridges.

Join the Lion's Den

Boy Scouts of America has begun a new program for boys ages 4 and 5 and currently enrolled in kindergar-

ten called the Lion's Den. Pack 85 of Wethersfield invites any such boy and his family to join it for lots of scout activities that teach positive morals. Email jmscalercio@gmail.com for more information. **WL**

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She's hyped over Hartford

Meehan honored for her work with the MetroHartford Alliance and HYPE

by Mark Jahne
Editor

The Polaris Award is intended to honor someone who exemplifies vision, skill and courage in serving Greater Hartford, while also lighting the way for others to follow.

One of this year's three recipients of the award, presented by Leadership Greater Hartford, is Wethersfield's own Julie Daly Meehan. She is the executive director of HYPE (Hartford Young Professionals & Entrepreneurs) as well as the director of investor engagement and digital media for the MetroHartford Alliance.

Meehan is a graduate of the LGH Quest program and a former program coordinator for the nonprofit organization. Leadership Greater Hartford trains and connects aspiring community leaders.

She was also named one of the top 40 Under Forty people in the region in 2008 by the Hartford Business Journal. Hartford Magazine deemed her one of its 50 most influential people in 2012.

"She has done amazing work. She spent three years with

us" before moving on to the alliance, Leadership Greater Hartford President Ted Carroll said.

"Over the last nine years she has built one of the largest young professionals associations in America. She inspires her members to volunteer a considerable amount of their

time. She's just incredible," he added.

"What happens in Hartford impacts the entire region and the entire state."

-Julie Daly Meehan

Carroll said HYPE offers countless social, professional, educational and other events that its members can enjoy. He praised Meehan's poise, energy, vision

and deep knowledge of Greater Hartford. He considers her an ambassador for the region and wonderful promoter of the benefits young professionals can enjoy by working here.

For the past 10 years Meehan, 33, has worked to help young professionals like herself discover all of the good things about the capital city. She frowns at the suggestion that there's allegedly nothing to do here.

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and Connecticut have plenty of opportunities for those who enjoy hiking, biking, winter activities, live music, live theater, museums, fairs, festivals, shopping, dining and more.

"The whole Front Street development is incredible," she said.

Heading an organization of young professionals was not part of her career plan. Quite the opposite. After graduating from Wethersfield High School in 2001 Meehan attended the University of Connecticut, earning a degree in human development and family studies.

She wanted to work with senior citizens, not fellow Millennials.

"My focus was gerontology. Growing up, my mom was a geriatric nurse," she said.

Things changed when Doe Hentschel, vice president of Leadership Greater Hartford, spoke to one of her classes. After doing an internship in Washington, D.C., Meehan sought out and was hired for a job at LGH, where she spent two years.

"I was the only young professional on the staff at the time," she said. "Through my work at Leadership Greater Hartford I learned a lot about the city. ... What hap-

pens in Hartford impacts the entire region and the entire state. I was there during a very formative time for Hartford."

The MetroHartford Alliance launched HYPE in 2006 and she joined that program a year later as its first full-time staff person. There are three now.

"The momentum was really building in HYPE. The membership grew quickly in the first year," she said.

Membership now exceeds 4,500 and there are more than 70 HYPE-related events and activities annually. Five volunteer-led committees help the organization thrive.

The organization also works with college students, and partners with various businesses and organizations. She said most area colleges are members of the MetroHartford Alliance.

Because of that, the students at these schools can become part of HYPE. Among its many benefits are networking opportunities and job search assistance.

"Employers love HYPE," she said. "HYPE started because of the business community.

Julie Daly Meehan of Wethersfield is the executive director of Hartford Young Professionals & Entrepreneurs, as well as director of investor engagement and digital media for the Metro-Hartford Alliance.



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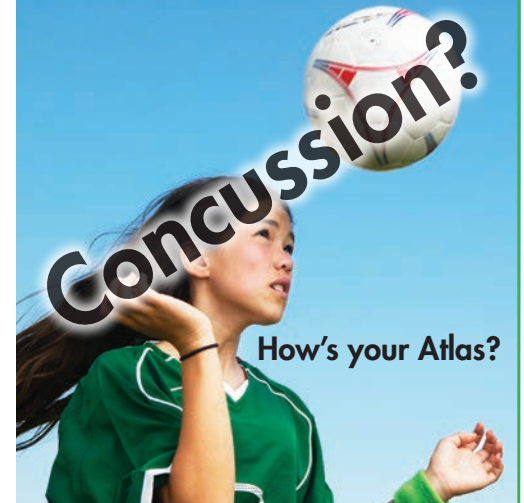
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The business community, from the beginning, wanted this and supported this."

All of it is based upon the premise that Hartford is a good place in which to live, work and enjoy a positive quality of life. Meehan sees her role as helping to build a generation of people who know and care about Hartford and its environs.

"There is a passion for the city. There is a passion for being part of its evolution. It's really inspiring," she said of her members. "This is a very supportive community. We're trying to help young professionals build more and more ties in this region."

She moved back to town after getting married to her husband Sean. The couple met through HYPE. Many of its members enjoy living in downtown Hartford in the housing that has been developed there in recent years. Meehan did just that for five years before getting married and her husband did it for 10.

"They're all full," she said of

those apartments and other housing units. "People are moving in. It's working."

Meehan said a growing number of young professionals from this region are choosing to stay around and work in Greater Hartford after college and others are coming in from out of state

"Our region is very attractive to international companies because we're in between Boston and New York."

—Julie Daly Meehan

because they see this area offering them excellent employment and living opportunities.

"These are the stories you don't hear, but they're happening. The urban employment young professionals seek is there and it's gotten better over the last couple of years," she said.

"Our region is very attractive to international companies

because we're in between Boston and New York," she added. "There's just so much that is good and young professionals care about being a part of that."

Meehan said the various holiday events held in the city are important because they draw people from the suburbs and those

people come to realize that Hartford is not the capital city of gloom and doom as sometimes portrayed in the news media.

The problems the city has are the same as those experienced by cities large and small all across the country, she added.

"I think there's been a lot of improvement over the past 10 years."

The arts community is growing. Young people are not just seeking jobs here, they are starting new businesses. Meehan said many tell her they like Hartford because its smaller size, compared to a Boston or New York, allows them to have a positive impact on its future.

When she's not busy with HYPE, Meehan is active in a number of other areas. She is an overseer for the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, also serving on its Ovarions 2017 Committee. She is an ambassador with the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

She serves as a corporator of Hartford Hospital and on its Executive Committee and Young Leaders Advisory Council. Meehan is a corporator with the iQuilt Plan, a board member of Knox, Inc., and an ambassador for the Mark Twain House & Museum.

She's also involved with the Legacy Foundation of Hartford's "My Little Black Dress" event and the state Department of Labor's CT Learns and Works Conference. **WL**



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Events *spotlight*

Witches & Tombstones Tours

Oct. 22-23, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum
211 Main St.
860-529-0612

During the 1800s, straw was often strewn onto the lid of a lowered coffin before the task of shoveling began to soften the sound. Many other bone-chilling and historical details will be shared during the annual Witches & Tombstones Tours. The cost is \$15 per person. Space is limited and advance ticket purchase is recommended by visiting webb-deane-stevens.org/witches-and-tombstones-tour. Stops include the 1714 Buttolph-Williams House, Ancient Burying Ground and Isaac Stevens House.

Trunk or Treat

Oct. 29, noon
Pitkin Community Center
30 Greenfield St.
860-721-2950

Trunk or treat is a fun, safe, interactive Halloween event. People will gather in the parking lot, decorating the trunks of their cars,

and children are able to trick or treat by going from trunk to trunk. Other attractions include face painting, library fun, a bounce device, craft and dance party. Trick or treating will begin at 1:30 p.m. Pre-registration for a parking space is required and can be done by calling the community center office. Prizes will be awarded to families for the best decorated trunks. Admission is free.

BarBeQue and Beer

Nov. 3, 5:30-9 p.m.
Webb Barn
211 Main St.

860-721-6200 or

wethersfieldchamber.com

The Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce presents this tasty evening to help raise funds for next year's fireworks display. Food will be provided by Black-Eyed Sally's and Max Bibb, with beverages from Sammy's Buy Rite Liquors. Tickets are \$35 per person and a limited number are available. They can be purchased via email to wethersfield@sbc-global.net. Credit card purchases can be done through Event Brite.



"Harvey"

Wethersfield High School
411 Wolcott Hill Road
Nov. 4-5, 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 6, 3:30 p.m.
860-721-9075

The high school presents the classic "Harvey" as this year's fall production. Elwood P. Dowd's 6-foot rabbit friend creates chaos for Elwood and his family on the school's newly renovated stage. Tickets will only be sold only at the door. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$6 for students and senior citizens. The new auditorium is handicapped accessible.

Fall Book Sale

Nov. 5-6
Wethersfield Library
515 Silas Deane Highway
860-529-2665 or
wethersfieldlibrary.org

The Friends of the Wethersfield Library present their annual fall sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday. A preview night is scheduled from 5-8 p.m. Nov. 3 for a \$5 admission fee. This sale features a large selection of books for adults and children as well as biographies, cookbooks and history. Sunday features the "Buy a Bag" sale where patrons can fill a bag with books for \$5.

Wethersfield Antiques Show

Nov. 18-19
Pitkin Community Center
30 Greenfield St.
860-529-7656 or
Wethersfieldhistory.org

The Wethersfield Historical Society presents this annual event showcasing some of the finest dealers from the Northeast in room setting booths displaying a wide range of early American and 19th century items. A gala cocktail party opens the show Friday evening from 6:30-9 p.m. Admission to the preview party is \$35 and includes an opportunity to shop the show early. The show opens to the general public on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$8. The show will again feature verbal appraisals, offered from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

First Church Village Craft Fair

Nov. 19, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
117 Wells Road

The First Church Village Social Club presents a Christmas Fair in its clubhouse. Shoppers will find an extensive selection of home-baked goodies, original and unique Christmas ornaments, handmade knit and crocheted items, and many other products for sale. Admission is free. **WL**



Courtesy photos

"Harvey" at Wethersfield High School

Living your Best LIFE



Myra Miner shows off a dish she created that sold in the shop at Wesleyan Potters in Middletown.

Photo by Mara Dresner

Sharing herself through pottery

Age is no obstacle for this 92-year-old artist

by Mara Dresner
Staff Writer

Looking at the numerous cups and bowls that Myra Miner has crafted, you might think she's spent her whole life working as a potter. But it's not her first career.

Miner has an undergraduate degree from the University of Connecticut and master's degrees from both the Hartford Seminary and Western Michigan University.

"I went out to Michigan to work in a church there as a minister's assistant. I stayed there for about six years," she said.

Her time in Kalamazoo included teaching religious education. It was while in Michigan that she decided to turn to secular teaching and next taught elementary education in Germany.

"It was a wonderful opportunity

to live in Europe. At that time, a long time ago in the late '50s and '60s, travel in Europe was relatively reasonable," she said.

She frequently traveled while working there. Born in New Haven, Miner grew up in Middletown.

"I knew I would settle in Connecticut," she said. "This is my home."

She taught in Hartford schools, moving to Wethersfield more than 50 years ago.

"I got married when I came back from Germany. We adopted a baby," she said. "[My husband Howard] said he didn't want me to work. I was working in Hartford at the time. It was a very difficult teaching job."

When she was ready to go back to work, she couldn't find a full-time teaching job, so she did tutoring and was a substitute teacher. She also

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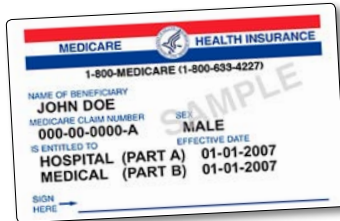
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Myra Miner favors reds and blues for the pottery she creates. These mugs are available at Wesleyan Potters.

traveled and has visited many countries, including Vietnam, India, Ghana and Egypt.

In the late 1970s, she decided to explore her artistic side, and took her first classes at Wesleyan Potters in Middletown.

"I had a sister that was an artist. [It] has always been fascinating for me. I've always been interested in art. My sister was particularly talented. When I was a child, we had friends that were artists," she said.

"This mother who was an artist used to take us on a little hike and we'd sit down and we'd paint. Art

has always been something important to me. In Europe I would always go to the museums and see the famous artworks," she said.

Miner's sister Janet died at the age of 27.

"It was a big blow in my life. When I visit museums, I often think that she would have enjoyed being here and seeing this. I think that has been an influence in my interest in art. She would have very much enjoyed being a potter," she said.

Miner, 92, was invited to become a "key member" of Wesleyan Potters in 1981.

"I love the feel of the clay. It's pretty exciting to throw and draw up a pot or a mug or whatever."

-Myra Miner

"That gives you the option to come any time you want to come," she said. "This is such a unique place. It's a great, great organization."

She makes the drive to Middletown several times each week to work on her pottery, which is sold in the shop and at the annual sale. While she focuses on functional pottery, she also has done hand building and has experimented with larger pieces.

"Right now, I've just been doing ordinary things like mugs and plates and so forth. In the past I was interested in doing hand building. I'm more a thrower than a hand builder," said Miner, who also is active in her church and goes to the gym three days a week.

"I love the feel of the clay. It's

pretty exciting to throw and draw up a pot or a mug or whatever."

You can usually find her at Wesleyan Potters three days a week, although she's cut back a little on how long she stays.

"Because of my age, I do have to be sure I don't get too tired, because I have to drive back. I don't spend as long a time down here. I have to conserve my energy," she said.

"I usually get here around 9:30 and after lunch, I may work an hour. Usually I try not to work too long. I have to watch out that I'm alert. I don't want to be a danger to anybody on the road."

She's taken a number of classes and attended many workshops through the years.

"I just love it," she said.

"For more than 35 years, Myra has been coming to Wesleyan Potters nearly every week to make pots. That in itself makes her one impressive lady. It's one thing to physically make the effort to do ceramics at 50, it's another to still be doing it successfully in your 90s," Melissa Schilke, director of Wesleyan Potters, said.

"Myra is also beloved here for her loyalty and dedication to Wesleyan Potters and her friends, but that's just who Myra is -

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dedicated to all her causes and her friends from all walks of her life and all decades of her life. For her 90th birthday I think she was given at least four parties, including one at the gym she also works out at every week. Everyone loves Myra. Myra is an inspiration to all of us."

Through the years, Miner has been active on various committees at Wesleyan Potters, including education and scholarship. She also works on the annual sale.

"There is lots of work that needs to be done for the sale. This place is transformed," she said.

She often gives her work away in addition to selling it in the shop.

"It's very nice to have something to give to people. All my relatives have my pots. My son [Christopher Miner of Newington] and his family have a good number of my pots. Right now, I'm making some for myself," she said.

"I think we do have a signature look. I tend to very often use brush strokes as decoration.

I think that's one of the things you would say is characteristic of my work. I kind of like the reds and the blues. I'm not so wild, although I certainly enjoy what other people do," she added.

"We get ideas from one another. We share ideas very willingly. It's a wonderful thing to be in a situation like this. I think we have a very good feeling in here. We have good leadership. It's been a wonderful experience for me and it makes me very happy. And my husband is happy to have me take part in this."

She thinks about the interaction between potter and those who use her creations.

"It's something of my time and effort and skill, and it's a friendly gesture on my part to share my time and effort and skill with somebody else. I often do give my pottery to people I have special feeling for," she mused.

"In a way, it's a part of me. It's a way of sharing me with somebody else." **WL**



A few of Myra Miner's creations are ready to be glazed.

Photo by Mara Dresner



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Slice of LIFE

photos by Lisa Brisson



Scarecrows Along Main Street

There are scary ones, cute ones, politically topical ones and even ones that show off school spirit on display until Oct. 23 during the 21st annual Scarecrows Along Main Street event in Old Wethersfield. The contest is sponsored by the Old Wethersfield Shopkeepers Association. **1.** Joan Hughes, owner of Antiques on Main, and Neill Walsh, owner of Neill Walsh Jewelers, show their support for the “shop local” movement with the scarecrow they made. Hughes is president of the Old Wethersfield Shopkeepers Association. **2.** Megan Kirk, co-owner of the Old Wethersfield Country Store, hangs out with her Gumby scarecrow outside of her Main Street shop. The store sells retro items, including Gumby and Pokey figurines. **3.** Kaci White and her 5-year-old daughter Merri Whitman goof around the “Nightmare Before Christmas” scarecrow created by Clips’ owner Diane Dumont and her husband Mike. The said it is one of their favorite movies. **4.** Caroline Galvin, 5, says “thumbs up” to the get out and vote scarecrows. Her father John is the chairman of the Democratic Town Committee. **5.** The scarecrows on display in front of the Old Academy, home of the Wethersfield Historical Society, show off their “cattitude.” **6.** Sisters Mary Parola, Natalie Barnas and Luanne Armstrong pose for a photo with the witch scarecrows they admired. **7.** Tiago and Giselle Baniton, 7 and 9, visit with the Liliac the Lollipop Witch scarecrow that was created by the Village Garden Club. **8.** The former Wethersfield State Prison was brought back to life in front of the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center. **9.** Audrey Haskins, 6, has a blast touring the scarecrows with her cousins David and Johnny Overstreet, 5 and 3. **10.** Catherine Foster brought along Pamela and Larry Simeone and pup Mesa to tour the Scarecrows Along Main Street. **11.** The November presidential election is featured, with Donald “Trumpkin” debating “Chillary” Clinton. **12.** The various pumpkins decorated by the second-graders at Highcrest School highlighted their theme of cooperation.



EDUCATION

Courtesy photos



Students spelled out the word "Peace" on the grounds of Highcrest School.

LIFE

in the classroom

Highcrest School is passionate about peace

by Mark Jahne
Editor

Celebrating International Peace Day has become part of the culture at Highcrest School. It's a practice that Principal John Bean, now in his second year there, decided to keep when he took over the main office.

The school celebrated the 2016 peace day on its official date of Sept. 21. Art teacher Susan Kopecki is among the many students, faculty members and other staff who were pleased with that decision. She and physical education teacher Kevin Kobelski are the primary organizers of the event.

"It's 10 years now that we've been running the program. It's a wonderful way for our students to think of global peace," Kopecki said.

Kobelski organizes the hundreds of children and adults into forming a human tribute to the concept of peace. There are more than 430 children enrolled at Highcrest. Kopecki got the idea from retired colleague Louis Lefebvre.

In addition, fifth grade students continued the tradition of participating in the companion Pinwheels for Peace program. One representative from each fifth grade class addressed the assembled crowd.

"The International Day of Peace began in 1981, established by the United Nations. Each year, thousands of events take place all around the world for this special day. My message for peace is equal rights for all," Sophia Delis said.

"In today's world, peace needs to become more than just a word. A pinwheel is a childhood symbol, reminding us of things that are simple, joyful and peaceful. My wish is that all people will live with peace and happiness," Kayla Ward added.

"The Pinwheels for Peace project was started in 2005 by two art teachers from Florida as a way for

their students to express their feelings about what's going on in the world and in their lives. My message for peace is for everyone to be nice," Jackson Kelly said.

The idea behind Pinwheels for Peace is that children need to understand that violence is not a way of life. The project does not take a political stand, other than to suggest that a state of calm and serenity, with no anxiety, the absence of violence, freedom from conflict or disagreement among people is possible.

Highcrest fifth-graders created pinwheels of all colors and sizes and wrote their thoughts about peace on

EDUCATION

one side. They drew or painted their feelings on the other side.

The pinwheels were then placed outside the school with the hope that the spinning wheels would spread these thoughts and feelings about peace throughout the country and the world. Students were encouraged to wear white or blue shirts signifying peace and global unity, respectively.

Kobelski arranged to borrow a lift from Sunbelt Rental so that aerial photos could be taken of the

“It’s 10 years now that we’ve been running the program. It’s a wonderful way for our students to think of global peace.”

–Susan Kopecki

assembled students. They made a human peace sign the past two years and this year they decided to group together to spell the word “peace.”

That was in keeping with this year’s theme of building blocks for peace.

The students are taught that peace does not only mean the absence of war and violence. It can be global in scale, but the concept can also be applied on a smaller scale to a community, school or individual classroom.

Bean is delighted to see this celebration continue and considers it a wonderful tradition.

“It’s unique to Highcrest [in Wethersfield]. The International Day or Peace is a lot of fun,” he said.

The principal is also pleased with the advent of more problem solving and civics studies at the school that also connect with the social studies and writing portions of the curriculum. That has been reflected in overall academic improvement.

“We’ve had some good growth academically this [past] year,” he said.



Students Sophia Delis, Kayla Ward and Jackson Kelly came forward to read declarations of peace. Assisting them is teacher Susan Kopecki.

Courtesy photos

Bean said students at Highcrest will perform community service projects this school year. Last year’s sixth-graders collected supplies for the South Park Inn homeless shelter in Hartford.

“It gave them a different perspective on the world,” he said.

Students helped to create four garden beds this past academic year and are using organic materials from the cafeteria to make compost for

those beds.

“We wanted to teach kids about where their food comes from,” Bean said.

The International Day of Peace was established by a United Nations resolution in 1991 and celebrated for the first time the following year. It has grown to the point where thousands of events take place all over the world each year on Sept. 21. **WL**

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EDUCATION

Lights, camera, action

Wethersfield Community TV continues to put the spotlight on the town

by Allie Rivera
Staff Writer

The studio is fully equipped. A large news desk sits before a simple backdrop, an array of cylinders on the ceiling flooding the room with light.

Rolling cameras stand stationary in the corners and wires weave a maze along the floor, connecting light switches and sound boards. It has all the makings of a professional news station, but stepping one foot out the door leads not to a bustling newsroom, but to the long hallways of the Pitkin Community Center.

"There's really nowhere else in town that you will find resources like this," Producer Jon Reynolds said.

Wethersfield Community

Television has been a staple in the town for decades and continues its production to this day without much fanfare. It began in 1984 in conjunction with community access stations in Rocky Hill and Newington before each town got its own station.

"It used to be in a little farmhouse in Old Wethersfield," Rick Garrey, former station president from 2001-2010, said.

The station moved to its current location in 2006 under Garrey's presidency, and during those first years under his administration he said it was in a downward slide.

"When myself and Ed Zambrello took over, we had to rebuild community interest and trust," Garrey said. "We did a lot of work on the station. Like every organization, we needed

new life and new blood."

All of the work is done by volunteers, which members said can make it both exciting and difficult.

"Everything is volunteer, so that makes it hard sometimes," President Eileen Beaulieu said.

While finding enough volunteers has been problematic in the past, both Garrey and Beaulieu said those who come forward find it to be a rewarding activity and often stay for many years. Alice Money, the station's librarian, is one such volunteer



Wethersfield Community Television continues to provide local coverage to the town through the work of its volunteers including, clockwise from top left, volunteer Producer Jon Reynolds, Treasurer John Babel, former president Rick Garrey, Librarian Alice Money, Office Manager Debbie Tawrel and President Eileen Beaulieu.

and has been with the group longer than any other current member.

"Alice started when we still had VHS tapes," Garrey said.

"My husband and I started out



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EDUCATION

because we were retired and looking for something to do," Money said. "I just enjoyed it so I stayed with it."

Garrey said volunteers of all ages are welcome at the station and he especially hopes to reach out to younger people interested in producing television.

"A lot of places, the volunteers can't be very hands on, especially not children," Office Manager Debbie Tawrel said.

"We've had kids here before. My own show was produced by a 12-year-old," Garrey added. "We actually encourage it. We want them to run the programs. We want them to work the cameras."

To further that, he has been in contact with Wethersfield High School in hopes of creating a partnership with its television production class.

"We're hoping to bring them in and have them start filming a lot of the high school activities," he said.

At one point, those activities were a large part of the programming at Wethersfield Community Television.

"High school sports was the number-one draw for a while," Garrey said.

According to Garrey and Beaulieu, the station used to be the number-one source for local news and politics. Shows hosted by residents often featured musicians, artists, politicians and book reviews.

"We even had a psychologist who did a show.

That was before

everyone had one of these in their pockets,"

Garrey said, holding up his smartphone.

"It's hard now because the world is changing. Everyone has a studio in their hands. The days of flipping through the channels are almost gone."

In 2010, Beaulieu took over as

"My husband and I started out because we were retired and looking for something to do. I just enjoyed it so I stayed with it."

—Alice Money

the organization's president, and around that time the station began making changes to reflect the shifting technology in the world.

"Now we're all digital," he said. "We've got new cameras, updated equipment, the whole system is up to date."

During her time as president, Beaulieu helped to oversee the station's technological overhaul, and she is ready for someone else to take over her role.

"I've been president for five or six years now. It's time for somebody else to come in and bring new blood," she said. "Every organization needs change or else you become static."

Members hope that more people in town will want to volunteer their time and talents to the station, either on camera or behind the scenes.

"It's not just volunteering to do a show or run the camera," Garrey said. "We need volunteers to orga-

nize everything or come in and answer the phones, even for just a few hours a week. There are a lot of opportunities to volunteer."

For those who are interested in creating their own content for Wethersfield Community Television, Garrey said he and the others would be happy to help them learn how to do it.

"If someone wants to do a show, we sit with them and show them how to do it," Garrey said. "You can make it as simple or as complicated as you want."

"If anyone has an idea, we can help them make it come to life," Reynolds added.

Beaulieu said she hopes that by continuing to offer programming on Wethersfield Community Television residents will continue to take pride in their town.

"I really want to get more people showing what's going on in Wethersfield," she said. **WL**

For more information on Wethersfield Community Television, or to learn how to volunteer, visit wctv14.com or its Facebook page or call 860-721-8814.

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Editorial

It's time to cast our votes

Nov. 8 is almost here and that means voters will be flocking to the polls to cast their ballots. This is a presidential year, so the top of the ballot will offer a choice of four people seeking the highest office in the land representing the Democrat, Republican, Libertarian and Green parties.

The presidential campaign and daily bombardment of news and political talk on TV and radio feels as if it started right after the last election four years ago. It will be a welcome relief to have all of that mind-numbing blather and bombast stop, at least for a little while.

This is a historic election. The voting will either result in the first woman elected president in United States history or one of the few men with no prior political experience to capture the White House. Either way, many public opinion polls suggest that whoever wins will take office with the low-

est popularity rating since those numbers have been tabulated.

While it's important to vote for president, it's also important to vote for those on the ballot who are seeking seats in the U.S. Senate and Congress, as well as the Connecticut House and Senate.

It can be argued that state legislators and the laws they enact probably have more direct impact on our lives than most of what comes out of Washington, D.C. They are the ones we turn to when we need help with local issues, when we seek funds for a new school or playground, when we have concerns about safety or transportation or other issues.

Few things in recent history have had a greater impact upon the lives of Connecticut residents than the advent of the state personal income tax in 1991. It was supposed to be part of a major overhaul of the entire taxation system in this state, not an additional tax.

Which is exactly what it

turned out to be. We're still waiting for that major overhaul 25 years later. But enough about that.

Take the time to learn the names of the candidates and get a sense of where they stand on matters that are important to you. Ask them what they will do to make Connecticut and its economy better. Read their profiles in this issue and review any other campaign materials you may receive.

It's always amazing how many people can't be bothered to take five minutes to vote or exert the minimal effort that is required to secure an absentee ballot. People stand in line for hours in other countries to do what we so often take for granted.

Voting, and the private manner in which we do it, is one of the most powerful rights that Americans enjoy. It is the keystone to our democracy. Even if you don't like this year's choices, take the time and make the effort to select the next group of political leaders who will shape the future of our nation and state. **WL**

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Letters

He's proud of Morin

To the Editor:

I am proud to submit this letter in support of Russ Morin to serve another term as our state representative from the 28th District in Wethersfield. I have known Russ for many years to be my good friend. He is a good husband, father, and recently, grandfather.

Russ cares about all people. He has proved this on many occasions.

Residents of the town of Wethersfield have voted Russ to serve on the Town Council and then to serve as our mayor for four years. An opening became available for a 28th District representative and Russ won that election hands down.

He is now serving as the deputy majority leader in the state House of Representatives.

Russ is a hard worker and an excellent leader who cares about all the residents in town. He has a passion to help and represent all veterans of the United States armed services. As a veteran of World War II, I have tremendous respect for his commitment to the well-being of all servicemen and women.

Russ has demonstrated to be a reliable, dependable and most effective legislator at the State Capitol. He has done his homework and done it very well.

—Dan Camilliere
Former Mayor

Hurley is the clear choice

To the Editor:

This letter is to endorse Mike Hurley to represent the town of Wethersfield. Mike will bring a fiscally responsible record to the state in a time when it is needed most.

The voters of Wethersfield need to drive change in the way that our state is governed. How can anyone take pride in the fact that we are rated as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of the taxes levied on its residents?

In the non-political publication WalletHub, Connecticut is ranked as the 48th worst state for tax burden on its residents. We are taxed 28 per-

cent higher than the average median household in the United States. This current tax burden does not even reflect the fact that the state has not adequately funded the state employee pension fund.

The Malloy administration released a projection nearly two years ago from the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College that showed the nearly \$1.6 billion annual contribution Connecticut currently makes to the state employees' pension fund could approach \$6.6 billion by the mid-2030s.

This happened while Russ Morin was serving Wethersfield. Russ Morin's job as an officer of the Connecticut Employees Union Independent makes him unqualified to represent us.

Russ will not listen to efforts to streamline our state if it means the loss of one union job or a reduction in union benefits (I have tried). Russ voted against the current state budget because it called for reductions in the state's union workforce.

It is time for change. We cannot continue with this fiscally irresponsible and failed approach to government in the state of Connecticut. Responsible citizens of our town must act now and vote for someone who will bring that approach to Hartford. We must vote for Mike Hurley.

—Brian Renstrom

Morin serves everyone

To the Editor:

Russ Morin should be the choice for all Wethersfield residents when they vote on Nov. 8 because he represents all Wethersfield residents.

Russ doesn't care if his constituent is a Democrat or a Republican or someone unaffiliated with a political party. He doesn't care if the resident is younger or older, male or female, Wethersfield born or from another town, another state or an immigrant from another country.

He represents all of us with a vigor and passion seldom seen at the State Capitol and he has been doing that since he arrived in Hartford in 2006.

I have known Russ for more than 20 years. We coached girls softball together. We raised money for a new Emerson-Williams playscape together. We served on the Town Council together. We watched our daughters graduate from Wethersfield High School together.

He officiated at the wedding of my son and daughter-in-law. There has been no finer caring and compassionate public servant produced by this town. It is with pride that I will vote for him next month and I urge all my fellow Wethersfield residents to do the same. We will all be better off with Russ representing us.

—Jeff Kotkin

They're behind Lee Johnson

To the Editor:

We are writing to support Lee Johnson as our next state representative. In these times when many of us are disillusioned with both the overall Republican Party and the Democratic Party, Lee is a breath of fresh air and is running as an unaffiliated candidate.

He would be a positive step towards independent leadership at the state level. Lee will bring his experience as a member of the Wethersfield Board of Education and Town Council, as well as assistant town attorney, with him to the position of state representative.

As a local lawyer and member of the Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce, he understands the concerns of small business, the need to retain and bring business back into Connecticut, and the importance of providing job opportunities. Controlling state spending and eliminating funding on special projects that do minimal to help our economy are a priority to him.

We have known Lee for almost 30 years and can vouch that he is a man whose prime concern will be the well-being of all the residents of Wethersfield. His honesty, straight forwardness, and no-nonsense approach to solving problems are strengths we need in our state representative.

We are at a point in time when

change is needed in government. Lee Johnson would be a definite change for the good for Wethersfield and the state of Connecticut. If you want change, then create change and vote for Lee Johnson.

—Tom and Adrienne Quinn

Hurley gets the nod

Dear Editor:

I am supporting Mike Hurley to be Wethersfield's next state representative in the 28th House district.

Imagine going to your doctor who tells you that you need a special device implanted to save your life. You have the operation and later find out that doctor gave a friend of yours the same advice. You do more research and find out this doctor recommends the same advice to all patients.

Would you be concerned or not concerned? Then you find out the special device company is paying huge kick-backs to that doctor. Would you ever go back to that doctor again? Should that doctor be trusted?

That's exactly why I am voting for Michael Hurley. State Representative Russ Morin is just like that doctor who has a major conflict of interest. Like that doctor, Russ Morin is paid by the state employee union as a union rep and is paid by the state as a legislator. Every time he votes for a spending increase, the union benefits.

Do you think if he voted against his union bosses he would keep his job? He actually voted against the last budget because it didn't benefit the union enough.

Our state is facing another \$1.3 billion in spending deficits. Could it be we have one party-controlled ethics commission that allows Russ Morin to double dip? What makes him any different from that doctor who was recommending a special device to all patients for the kick back?

Connecticut is near last in almost every economic category. We need someone like Mike Hurley who is going to work exclusively for us. He has your best interest at heart and

will put you first.
—Mark Pappa

Backs Morin for another term

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of state Rep. Russ Morin. Russ Morin has proven himself to be an effective state legislator. He always makes Wethersfield his first priority.

Russ worked with his fellow delegation members to secure \$10 million to keep the Wethersfield High School renovation on track. He was a catalyst for action when it came to the renovations and lights at Cottone Field and as deputy majority leader in the House of Representatives he worked to pass nationally recognized legislation to help fight the opioid epidemic.

I was with Russ when he led a group of Wethersfield High School students to the South Park Inn, where he gave the students a tour, cooked a meal and served it to the homeless. Russ asked his supporters to support the Wethersfield food pantry and the response was overwhelming. The hallmark of Russ Morin's career has been to fight for those who have no voice.

He is a leader in the area of mental health and has fought for tax breaks for the middle class. Russ has consistently supported the young people in our community, from his days coaching Little League to his securing of state funds for education and for the renovation of Mill Woods Park.

His opponent, Councilor Hurley, has voted against the education budget in Wethersfield on numerous occasions. In Hartford, he would do the same, fall in line with Republican leadership and support draconian cuts that would disproportionately hurt the less advantaged.

It seems the Republicans are using the same playbook they have used against Russ for years. They are saying he is a yes man for Dan Malloy. Well, unfortunately for them, that narrative makes no sense and

they aren't running against Dan Malloy. Russ voted against the governor's budget twice.

*—John Gallivan
 Chairman
 Democratic Town Committee*

Hurley will do a better job

To the Editor:

Fiscal mismanagement in the form of perpetual deficits is not just a state-wide problem, but a regional concern as well. Hartford's budget deficit, recently increased to \$22 million this year, has bolstered the call for regionalization, or the need for cities and towns to collaborate on ways to share services and raise further revenue to bail Hartford out.

With Standard & Poor's latest four-notch downgrade of Hartford's bond rating – reflective of a city with no credible plan to alleviate its deep structural imbalances – it is unfair and unjust to ask Wethersfield residents to pay more in taxes for years of failed leadership in Hartford.

Mayor Bronin's claim that the tax crisis is a result of Hartford's tax-exempt properties should not be a new revelation. Hartford's previously agreed upon public sector union obligations and over-budget baseball stadium are evidence that failed leadership, not lack of tax revenue, is the root cause of the city's problem.

Hartford's leaders must first demonstrate how they will right their fiscal ship before asking the people of Wethersfield to sacrifice more than they currently are.

It will take new leadership in our legislature to get us out of the mess in Hartford, and for that matter, all of Connecticut is in. More of the same failed schemes we have seen over the years will not get our state going in the right direction.

Vote for change on Nov. 8. Vote for Mike Hurley for state representative. He'll advocate for our financial interests first before being asked to bail out others.

—David M. DeCarli



Another voter for Morin

To the Editor:

Russ Morin is a true volunteer, always giving his time to help the citizens of Wethersfield. He was on the committee that built the first play scape at Emerson-Williams School. He was on the board of Wethersfield Girls Softball. He cooks at a homeless shelter.

His political career started with the Board of Education, then running for Town Council, ultimately becoming our mayor. While mayor, he sponsored a golf tournament to benefit social services. He then ran for state representative and is currently deputy majority leader in the House.

Russ is a politician who listens to the people and reacts to their needs. His goal is to make government more efficient, keep taxes down and look out for education, our children, the needs of the homeless, people with special needs and our seniors.

Russ was involved in the consolidation of state agencies, funding state pension obligations and enacted logical spending cuts. Russ has been involved in getting state grants including funding for Mill Woods Park Improvements, lights for Cottone Field, streetscape improvements for Silas Deane Highway, façade loans to help our businesses improve the look of their buildings, funds to help demolish the Weight Watchers Building and funds to help get Loretta's Dream Pavilion built in Mill Woods Park, and recently

helped a developer get bonding to finance a development at the Fun Zone building.

Russ also worked with the commissioner of education to get the reimbursement rate increased on the Wethersfield High School renovations. Russ worked on legislation that improved quality of life for seniors by providing Medicaid funds for home care and raised income levels for the Medicare savings program.

*—Tony Martino
 Town Councilor*

Fellow councilors support Hurley

To the Editor:

We are writing in support of Mike Hurley's candidacy for state representative. Mike has served our town well during his time as a town councilor.

With his financial background, Mike brings a very important perspective to the issues related to our state budget. A state budget that, despite all the tax increases, has yet to get out of the red.

We are confident that Mike will continue on the state level, as he has done on the local level, to control spending while meeting the needs of Wethersfield residents. Please join us in supporting Republican candidate Mike Hurley for state representative this November.

*—Donna Hemmann
 —Jodi Latina
 —Mike Rell
 Town Council members*

Morin is his man

To the Editor:

I am offering my support for Russ Morin for state representative. I have come to the belief that one of the most important functions of a state representative is to be a successful advocate for your district's local projects and issues in Hartford.

This type of advocacy extends further than participation in legislative sessions. A working knowledge of where to go, together with personal contacts with state administrators is essential. Russ's vast experience after years in the legislature has been critical in bringing home the "bacon" to Wethersfield.

When the town needed \$10 million of additional funding to complete the high school renovation, Russ's personal contacts were critical. When our state-funded façade improvement fund was exhausted, Russ knew where to plead our case.

The same is true for obtaining State Bond Commission approval for the proposed developers of the Fun Zone property. Yes, experience is critical, and Russ Morin has that experience.

—Daniel A. Silver

Morin does the job

To the Editor:

We are writing in support of Russ Morin in the upcoming election for state representative in the 28th District. We knew Russ long before he actively pursued public office through mutual involvement with Emerson-Williams PTO.

Then, as now, he possessed a great commitment to education. Russ has continued to work tirelessly in support of Wethersfield's schools as a state legislator, ensuring availability of funding for town school initiatives when needed.

Russ has supported the town in numerous other ways, assisting our efforts to enhance economic development. On a number of occasions, he has cooperated with town officials to secure funding for redevelopment or renovation of underutilized business properties. He also has maintained a focus on making Wethersfield a desirable place to live.

Loretta's Dream and the Montanaro soccer fields remain prime examples of the results of

such work. Russ has worked on legislation of statewide benefit, such as the entrepreneur's learner's permit pilot program to assist first-time business owners and the municipal property tax relief initiative for retired volunteer firefighters.

He continues to support legislation that assists veterans, such as the labor commissioner's clearinghouse to help them locate jobs that match their skill sets.

Russ works hard with other state lawmakers who cover parts of Wethersfield in support of legislation that will benefit town. He has a firm grasp on the leadership tools required in the legislative process and uses them to achieve programs of value to our town and the state.

—Brent and Rita-Ann Owen

Will vote for Morin

To the Editor:

I'm proud to be voting for Russ Morin. As the parent of a Wethersfield High School student, I have a renewed appreciation of how important the renovation of Wethersfield High School has been for our children and community.

Antiquated facilities have been replaced with dynamic learning environments that are preparing students to meet the demands of 21st century careers. Our beautiful new high school will protect our property values and enhance the reputation of our community.

Russ worked tirelessly to help the high school referendum pass and, when the project was in jeopardy due to the unforeseen cost of asbestos removal, Russ was instrumental in securing funding to keep construction on track.

This is the same expertise and dedication Russ shows when he's working to bring new businesses to our community, improve our parks, support our seniors and so much else. Russ always comes through for Wethersfield.

As a mom, it's also important to me that Russ has pledged to fight any effort to overturn Connecticut's common sense restriction on assault weapons. This is far too important an issue for our children, schools and community for us to ignore when deciding who to support this year.

I know many of us in Wethersfield are proud of the leading role Senator Chris Murphy has taken in fighting the scourge of gun violence in our country. It would be a shame if we forget this is an issue Senator Murphy's hometown has a voice in when we vote on Nov. 8.

I'm proud Russ stands with Chris Murphy and the majority of Connecticut voters in supporting common sense gun legislation that protects our children, schools and communities.

—Martha Conneely

Morin helps people

To the Editor:

I am writing to you in support of Russ Morin in his bid for re-election for state representative in the 28th District. As a lifelong Wethersfield resident, I have known Russ and his wife Grace for many years. He is a family man who cares about the people of Wethersfield and the well being of the town.

Russ has helped countless people with their issues and concerns when nobody else listened. He recently assisted in getting a World War II Wethersfield resident's flag from his combat engineering division installed at the State Capitol Hall of Flags, a great honor to someone who served this country gallantly.

Russ works hard to improve the quality of life for everyone in our town, especially the elderly, he will always fight for our fair share of state funding to support needed programs. Wethersfield is better off with Russ as our representative.

—Frank Dellaripa

Morin makes a difference

To the Editor:

As Wethersfield High School's massive renovation program comes to a close later this year, it is important to remember that the project could not come to completion without the efforts of state Rep. Russ Morin.

A large deficit was created in the project when workers encountered significant amounts of hazardous materials. Spearheaded by Representative Morin, our state delegation secured \$10 million of state funding to properly remove the material and keep the project moving forward.

Without this funding, the town would have had to implement major cutbacks to the high school or seek additional funding from the town's taxpayers. Representative Morin has a track record of proven results in Hartford and I look forward to sending him back to the General Assembly.

—Kevin Hill

Board of Education member

Morin is a good man

To the Editor:

At one time salt was considered a very valuable commodity. In fact the word "salary" derives from the word "salt." And what does it mean to be "worth your salt?" To me that is a person who works hard and succeeds at what he does, a person like Russ Morin, who is seeking re-election as representative of the 28th District.

Russ has worked very hard to advance the needs of Wethersfield at the state level. He helped obtain the \$10 million for the high school renovation, offsetting a huge cost overrun. His previous positions as school board member, town councilor and mayor have given him experience and enhanced his acumen and breadth of vision in tackling various and difficult issues as they arise.

It is a privilege to know Russ on a personal level. Any time I hear his name mentioned, the person will invariably say, "Russ is a good man." With all his responsibilities, Russ still takes the time to really talk to people.

When you are talking to him, you have 100 percent of his attention. He is not rushing off to talk to someone else or grab a potential voter. Russ volunteers at the South Park Inn, helping the less fortunate among us. He also is reaching out to communities new to Wethersfield; the Bosnians, for example.

All in all, Russ Morin is not only "worth his salt." He is the "salt of the earth" with his strong character and affable personality. He is running a very positive campaign and will continue with his positive, can-do attitude during his next term as our state rep.

—Susan Grady

November calendar

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

1 Time to Talk, 7:30 p.m., Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org, also Nov. 8, 15, 22 and 29

2 Bud and Blossom Garden Club, 7 p.m., Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield St.

3 Building STEAM, 6 p.m., for ages 5-7, registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org, also Nov. 10 and 17

BarBeQue and Beer, 5:30 p.m., Webb Barn, 211 Main St., 860-721-6200 or wethersfieldchamber.com

Wethersfield Art League, 6:30 p.m., Silas Deane Middle School media center, 551 Silas Deane Highway, 860-666-9992 or 860-306-2079

4 Drop-in Playtime/Storytime, 10 a.m., Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org, also Nov. 11 and 18

"Harvey," 7:30 p.m., Wethersfield High School, 411 Wolcott Hill Road, \$10 general admission, \$6 for senior citizens and students, 860-721-9075, also 7:30 p.m. Nov. 5 and 3:30 p.m. Nov. 6

5 Fall Book Sale, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-529-2665 or wethersfieldlibrary.org, also 1-4 p.m. Nov. 6

Historic Mill and Nature Hike, 10 a.m., Mill Woods Park, meet at the nature center, 860-808-9968

9 Madres Latinas, 6 p.m., Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield St., madreslatinas-wethersfield@gmail.com

10 Intro to Computers, 6:30 p.m., registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

11 Author Mark Granato, 10 a.m., senior center, 30 Greenfield St., registration required, 860-721-2979

12 Aging Well, 10:30 a.m., registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

150 Prospect Coffeehouse, 6:30 p.m., Wethersfield United Methodist Church, 150 Prospect St., 860-614-5158 or tanjam@comcast.net

Saturday Cinema: "African Queen," 1:30 p.m., Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

19 Ye Olde Sugar Plum Fair, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, 300 Main St., 860-529-6825 or trinityepiscopal-weth.org

First Church Village Craft Fair, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 117 Wells Road

Wethersfield Antiques Show, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield St., 860-529-7656 or wethersfieldhistory.org, preview party from 6:30-9 p.m. Nov. 18

Scents & Sensibility, 2 p.m., registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

21 Microsoft Word Basics, 6:30 p.m., registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

22 GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Woman's Club, 6:30 p.m., Newington Senior & Disabled Center, 120 Cedar St., Newington, 860-666-4371

28 Microsoft Word Intermediate, 6:30 p.m., registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

Is your club, community organization, school or house of worship holding an event open to the general public? If so, please send us the details for inclusion in our calendar. Email your events to Mark Jahne at mjahne@turleyct.com or mail them to Turley CT Community Publications, 540 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury, CT 06070.



Stacey Pribyson, owner and head cook at the Wethersfield Diner, celebrated the restaurant's first anniversary Aug. 10. Shown are staff, from left, Susan Federico, Kim Ethier, Stacey Pribyson, Cheryl Vosney, Janice Pribyson and Aaron Crews.

Photo by Allie Rivera

Order up

Wethersfield Diner celebrates its first anniversary after years of dormancy

by Allie Rivera
Staff Writer

The building that sat empty for so long came back to life and, now that a year has passed and everything is going well, a celebration seemed in order.

Blue and white balloons lined the countertop at the Wethersfield Diner in celebration of its first anniversary. As a large Funfetti sheet cake made by employee Kim Ethier was

sliced, happy patrons burst into an impromptu song, singing "happy anniversary to you."

For owner Stacey Pribyson, the event was the recognition of 365 days of hard work and dedication to making her new restaurant a successful business.

"I think this is what was meant to be," she said. "I did work in the corporate world for eight or nine years, but I think this was a calling."

Purchasing and reopening

the Wethersfield Diner felt like returning home. A town native and graduate of Wethersfield High School, Pribyson worked at the diner as a teenager and now finds assistance in running the business from her mother, Janice Pribyson.

"I never worked in a restaurant before," Janice Pribyson said. "She does a great job under a lot of pressure. In the restaurant business from day to day you never know what you're going to face and she's been able

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to handle it all.”

Some of those pressures included an entire remodeling of the restaurant after it was purchased.

“When we took over we renovated the whole thing,” Stacey Pribyson said.

Despite an entirely new interior, the design still reflects an older style of diner that she said was an important aspect.

“I think it’s just classic and it fits with the style of food I like to cook. I like old school, classic, home-style food,” she said. “Plus there’s just not a lot of them left.”

In addition to working as the restaurant’s owner, Pribyson also serves as the head cook and creator of the menu.

“I’ve changed it up a couple of times over the year,” she said. “We make everything fresh and homemade here.”

The menu has both traditional diner fare as well as a selection of Polish meals that she makes using her grandmother’s recipes.

“We have pierogis, golabkis, and kapusta, which is like a sweet sauerkraut,” Pribyson said.

“Stacey is a fantastic cook,” regular customer Bob Gillanders said. “I know a lot of Polish people, my son-in-law is Polish, my wife is Polish, and they like going there and getting their Polish food.”

Another favorite among customers is Pribyson’s take on hash browns that she calls smashed potatoes.

“She makes awesome smashed potatoes. You’ve got to try them,” Gillanders said.

“There’s nothing here we’ve ever had that we didn’t like, ever. The food always comes out fantastic,” customer Denise Griffith said, dining with her son Brenden and friend Gail Brown. “You can’t get corned beef better anywhere else in the world.”

Pribyson said the quality of the food and freshness of ingredients is extremely important.

“Everything is fresh. We roast our own roast beef, half of our salad dressings are homemade. Food quality is very important,” she said. “The quality of the food is something I wouldn’t compromise on.”

The food is not the only attraction for those who visit the Wethersfield

Diner. So are the ambiance and atmosphere.

“It’s a very friendly diner,” Gillanders said. “They spend time. They don’t just drop the food and leave. There’s always a happy face in there.”

The diner is open seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., with Pribyson at the helm at least five days per week. She has had numerous requests from patrons to extend the hours to include dinner.

“It’s something I’m thinking about,” she said. “Getting us to where we are now was our first priority for the first year.”

Before diving into the possibility of dinner, Pribyson is first looking forward to expanding lunch options, including starting box lunching for those who work locally, and some lunch catering.

Over the last year, she has seen many changes and is proud of how far her business has come.

“If people came in those first three months and they weren’t happy, they should come try us again,” she said. “We’ve spent a lot of time fine

“I think it’s just classic and it fits with the style of food I like to cook.”

–Stacey Pribyson

tuning everything to get to this point.”

She is grateful for the support she has received from people all over town.

“The town has been great, the people have been great,” she said. “I’m so thankful for all of the support we’ve gotten over the last year.”

Pribyson is excited to see what will come next and hopes that more residents will give the diner a try.

“If they’re looking for a good, homemade meal, this is the place to come,” she said. “I plan on being here as long as I possibly can.” **WL**

The Wethersfield Diner is located at 718 Silas Deane Highway. It can be reached at 860-969-0600.

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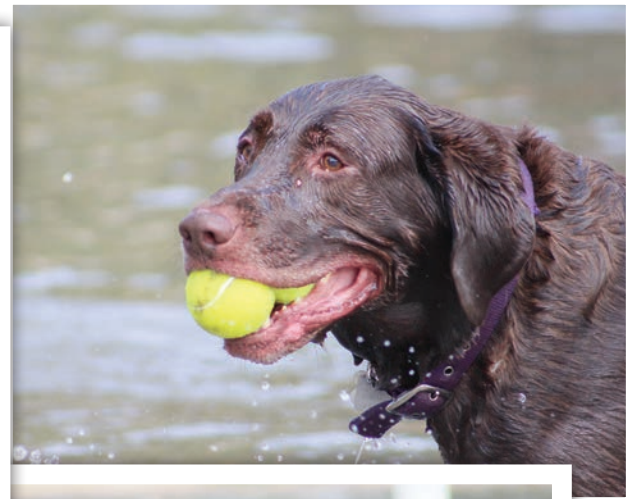
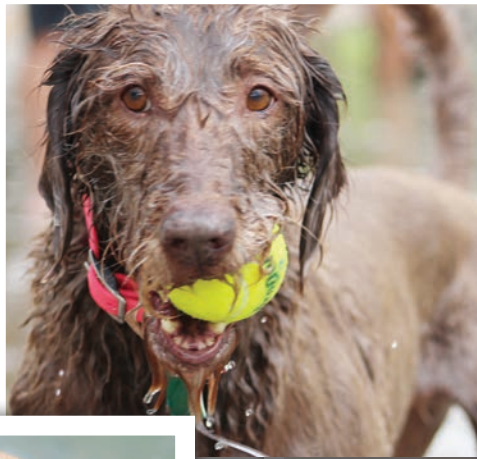
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Dogs take to the water

Photos by Sarah Marino Sanders

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation held its annual dog swim Aug. 20 at Mill Woods Park to mark the end of another swimming season. Pooches of all sizes came to run, play and enjoy a refreshing swim.



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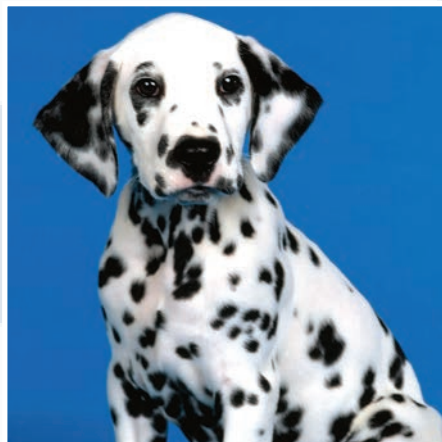
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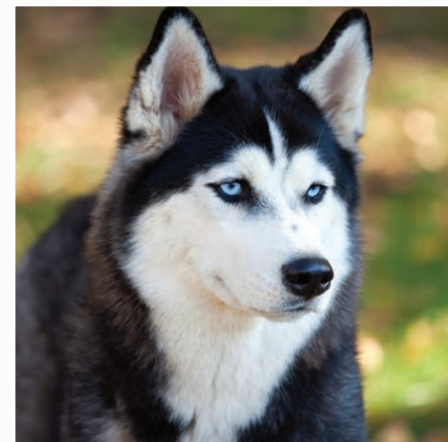
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Riley

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Creamsicle is a 10-year-old male domestic shorthair. He still has a decent amount of energy and is fine with children. But he wants nothing to do with other cats or dogs. His ideal home would be one where he is the only pet and gets to spend all of his time indoors.



Creamsicle

Riley is a 1-year-old male Boxer and Labrador retriever mix. A real sweetheart, he would thrive in a single-family home with children who are 15 or older. He has no prior experience with other pets in the house but is willing to give it a try. He is a high energy dog and needs daily exercise. The best home for him would be with a family that has prior large dog experience.

Inquiries about adoption may be made at the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Road, Newington. Call 860-594-4500. More information, including videos, can be found online at cthumane.org. Click on "Adopt" and "Newington." The Connecticut Humane Society is a private organization and has no time limits for adoption.

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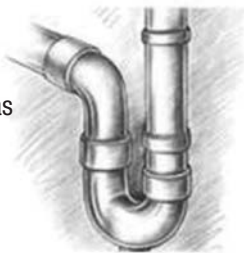
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Happy Thanksgiving



BY MARK DIXON
WFSB METEOROLOGIST [AMS]



November...

In climatological terms, this month is the 3rd and final of what we call 'meteorological fall' ...here are some highlights, based on what has happened in the past.

The average low and high temperatures on the first of November are 37 and 57, respectively; by the end of the month,

they drop to 29 and 46. These values are determined using Bradley International Airport, Windsor Locks as the official location for record keeping (a timeframe of 3 decades is used to calculate "normal" values for low and high temperatures).

With regard to extremes this month, the coldest temperature,

since records have been kept, was 1 degree set on the 24th in 1989; conversely, the warmest temperature was 83, set on the 2nd in 1950.

November is also a month that features a big loss of daylight. From the first day of the month, with a sunrise of 7:24am and sunset of 5:44pm --- to the last, with a sunrise of 6:58am and sunset of

4:21pm... there is a loss of 58 minutes of possible daylight in 30 days!

This also is the month when we end Daylight Saving Time (DST), meaning it's time to 'fall back' ...reallocating an hour by setting our clocks back an hour, on Sunday the 6th. This is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors! **WL**



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